

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOI/PA

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FOI/PA# 1615669-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 1

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# KIDNAPPED

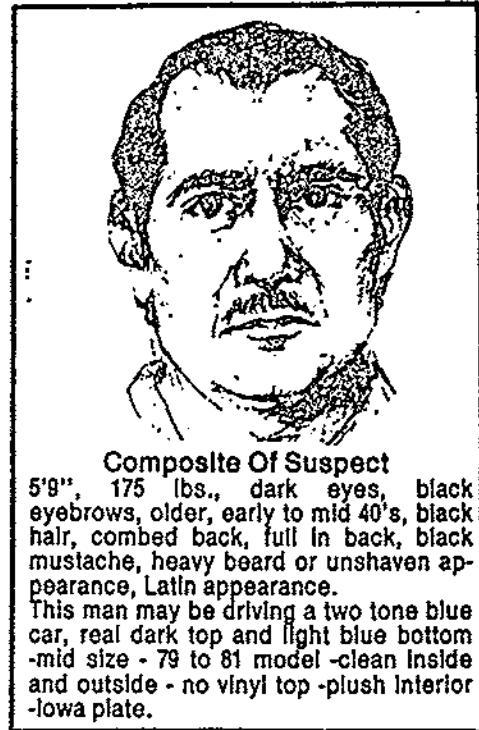
## JOHN DAVID GOSCH



taken 81/82 School Year



Fair Photo '82



Composite Of Suspect  
5'9", 175 lbs., dark eyes, black eyebrows, older, early to mid 40's, black hair, combed back, full in back, black mustache, heavy beard or unshaven appearance, Latin appearance.  
This man may be driving a two tone blue car, real dark top and light blue bottom -mid size - 79 to 81 model -clean inside and outside - no vinyl top -plush interior -Iowa plate.

**DESCRIPTION:** Age: 13 years old, D.O.B.: Nov. 12, 1969, Ht.: 5'7" Wt.: 145 lbs. Hair: light brown, Eyes: blue, Complexion: medium Teeth: gaps between front teeth, Shoe Size: 9½-10, Marks/Scars: freckles, large birthmark upper left chest, horseshoe shaped scar on tongue, large lower lip. Stature: At 13 years old, John has the physical appearance of a boy 15 or older.

John David Gosch was last seen on Sunday, September 5, 1982 at approximately 6:06 A.M. He was believed to have been kidnapped when starting his paper route at 42nd and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines, Iowa.

John was believed to have been wearing a white sweat shirt with the words KIM'S ACADEMY on the back of it along with black warm up pants and blue rubber thongs. Missing also with John is his yellow paperbag and wire cutters.

## REWARD

A \$90,000.00 REWARD has been offered for the safe return of John David Gosch in addition to a \$10,000.00 REWARD for information leading to his whereabouts.

Anyone having information to John's whereabouts, please call: LOCAL F.B.I OFFICE or INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCH AGENCY, INC. (312) 745-1111 or John's parents JOHN and NOREEN GOSCH at (515) 225-7456.

7-2934-29

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
**Pages 1A and 10A**  
**The Des Moines Register**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**Date Tues., 10/19/82**  
**Editor Morning**

Title: **UNSUB;**  
**JOHN DAVID GOSCH -**  
**VICTIM**  
Character: **POSSIBLE KIDNAPPIN'**  
or  
Classification: **7A-1053**  
Submitting Office: **Omaha**

# Gosch detectives in run-in with police

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Two private detectives hired by John and Noreen Gosch to find their missing son were picked up this weekend by West Des Moines police as they were attempting to find the youngster's trail, the Gosches said Monday.

"It blew everything we were trying to do," said Noreen Gosch.

The Gosches' account was corroborated by one of the detectives Monday, but was disputed by police.

West Des Moines Police Capt. Robert Rushing said the detectives and an associate were not picked up.

"They never left the area," Rushing said. "Nobody was brought in. Nobody was detained."

The widely differing versions of the incident added even more mystery to the baffling case.

Young John Gosch, missing since Sept. 5, disappeared without a trace. West Des Moines police, assisted by the Division of Criminal Investigation, have been unable to turn up a shred of information.

Noreen Gosch said her impatience with the case's progress is growing



Noreen Gosch



John Gosch

and she fears police are walking away from it.

She said a West Des Moines police officer told her authorities are "nearing the day when we're going to put this case to bed."

However, DCI Chief Gerald Shanahan said the case is "still being vigorously pursued."

"We have a lot of people assigned to it and we're doing everything we can," he said. "I want to get to the bottom of this just as much as the family does and the citizens do."

Dennis Whelan and Jeff Parker, Omaha detectives hired by the

Gosches, had driven a van to the intersection of Forty-second Street and Marquette Lane in West Des Moines about 6 a.m. Sunday, the approximate place and time that Gosch vanished.

With Whelan and Parker was a woman employee of the detective agency who was driving a brown car.

Whelan said Monday that their early morning surveillance was "to familiarize us with who's up at that time, what traffic patterns there are, what people are coming and going. We wanted to get a feel for the neighborhood."

"We wanted to see it as it might have been that morning," he said. "We didn't want to alert anybody because it would change the whole thing."

Whelan said a West Des Moines police officer rolled up and asked for identification. The private investigator said he and Parker had been to the West Des Moines police department

GOSCH  
Please turn to Page 10A

7A-1053-58

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# Carriers see private eye lurking in the shadows

GOSCH

*Continued from Page One*  
before to present their identification. They also were carrying letters from the Goshes that said the detectives were working for them.

Whelan said when his employee couldn't provide identification, the policeman told them to report to the West Des Moines police station.

"We tried to explain what the situation was and he just said, 'I want all of you to come down to the station.' He went ahead and told us to meet him there."

Whelan said they spent some 15 minutes at the station while the employee produced her identification and provided other information. Whelan said she was to be photographed, but a camera couldn't be located by police.

"We would like to have sat in the area of Gosch's disappearance for a half hour or 45 minutes longer. Unfortunately, this didn't happen. By the time we would have gotten back to

the area, we would have missed 15 to 20 minutes. It was a crucial time, so we didn't go back."

Captain Rushing said police received a call from the father of two newspaper carriers who spotted Whelan and "were scared because somebody was lurking back in the shadows."

Rushing said the carriers reported there were guys asking questions about Johnny and what time he delivered the papers and stuff like that. They went home and told their folks."

Whelan said he went to the house of the carriers and identified himself.

Rushing said the carriers' parents didn't want their children to be interviewed.

Whelan said he couldn't explain the widely varying accounts.

"I don't want to get into the middle of an argument," he said. "We're trying to find the boy."

Said Rushing: "I double-checked with the officer involved and stand behind what we've said."

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
**Pages 1A and 3A**  
**The Des Moines Register**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**Date: Fri., Oct. 1, 1982**  
**Edition: Morning**

**Title: UNSUB;**  
**JOHN DAVID GOSCH -**  
**VICTIM**

**Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING**  
**or**  
**Classification: 7A-1053**  
**Submitting Office: Omaha**

# Massive search for car seen when boy vanished

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

It was 5:45 a.m. and still dark when an early riser in West Des Moines heard a car door slam, looked out a window and saw the car drive off.

That bit of trivia from Sept. 5 now looms large in the disappearance of a West Des Moines youngster that continues to baffle investigators almost four weeks later.

The driver of that late-model car may have information about 12-year-old John Gosch, who vanished as he prepared to deliver the Sunday newspaper.

Not a shred of information about

the youngster has surfaced since that morning. Gosch's stack of newspapers, the binding cut as though he were preparing to distribute them, remained undelivered in his wagon near Forty-second and Marcourt streets in West Des Moines.

There was no sign of a struggle. There was nothing else left behind, not a trace of the yellow Sunday Des Moines Register bag Gosch had carried. There have been no ransom notes, no anonymous callers offering positive leads.

It's as if John David Gosch was simply plucked from the face of the earth.

Gerald Shanahan, chief of the

**GOSCH**

Please turn to Page 3A



7A-1053-45

10-1 1982

b6  
b7c

# DCI checks computer lists in search

## for car seen where boy vanished

GOSCH

*Continued from Page One*

Division of Criminal Investigation says finding the car — described by the witness as a silver Ford Fairmont with large black stripes along the sides — may indicate what happened to Gosch.

Another car was seen in the neighborhood that morning by others, including newspaper carriers and residents. That vehicle was a blue over blue full-size car with Warren County plates. Its driver reportedly stopped to ask Gosch for directions.

But Shanahan says the silver car may be more vital. It was seen where

and when Gosch apparently stood as he began his route.

To make sure the witness picked a reasonably close color, DCI agents returned with four cars to the person's home and — at about the same time of day and under similar circumstances — had him identify the color.

Thursday, the DCI began digging deeper to find the car.

It distributed some 300 cards to police departments in the state. On each card is information about a car similar in description and registered in the community where the cards are sent. The DCI is asking local police to

check the cars and relay pertinent information.

The identifications were obtained with the help of the Ford Motor Co. regional headquarters in Omaha and from computer printouts of the Iowa Department of Transportation's vehicle registrations.

Shanahan says the printouts have proved troublesome. Some dealers who've sold the cars forgot to list a color. In such cases the DOT's computer lists the cars as "white."

It is those "white" and silver-colored cars made from 1979 to 1982 with the black stripe package sold by Ford that are being sought.

Shanahan says chances are slim that the car will be found.

And if it is, it may be a dead end. The driver may know nothing of Gosch's disappearance.

If the search fizzles, Shanahan says,

investigators are prepared to move out into neighboring states, checking long lists of motor vehicle registrations.

Such a search had already begun in Nebraska, he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1 and 5M  
**Des Moines Register**  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date Fri., 10/1/82  
 Edition Morning

(Mount Clipping in Space Below).

## Blaming the cults:

# Events fuel 'Guyana fever' in D.M. area

By KEN FUSON

Des Moines Staff Writer

Law enforcement officials refer to the trend as "Guyana fever," — the fear that controversial religious groups are to blame for every mysterious circumstance.

Events in recent weeks indicate the fever is being felt in the Des Moines area:

- On Sept. 5, 12-year-old John Gosch of West Des Moines vanished while delivering newspapers on his Sunday morning route. The case has baffled authorities and produced few leads.

Noreen Gosch, the boy's mother, said Thursday she has "reason to believe" her son may have been abducted by members of The Way International.

• Oppha L. Clark, 46, of Urbandale was found dead in her home the morning of Sept. 19. She had been stabbed to death. Early in the case, before authorities had arrested a suspect, neighbors speculated that the murder may have been tied to the past involvement of one of Clark's daughters in The Way International.

• Reports in August that The Way had targeted Des Moines for a concentrated recruiting drive this year — along with evidence that the group's members have rented homes throughout the city — have triggered several complaints to zoning officials.

• Last Sunday, more than 100 people packed into a West Des Moines school to hear Jim Mason, City minister's talk about religious cults in general and The Way in particular. The Rev. John Gugel, pastor of the Messiah Lutheran Church, said he decided to sponsor the discussion because of fears expressed by members of his congregation about The Way.

Is the concern warranted? Or are Des Moines residents overreacting?

Answers to those questions vary. Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said authorities have checked into the group and discovered "no information" that The Way engages in criminal activity such as kidnapping. That belief has been echoed by past Way members and the director of a Nebraska center that "deprograms" members of the so-called religious cults.

"I think people are always concerned about the unknown," Shanahan said, "and this might be one of those situations."

Others say Des Moines residents should be concerned. The Rev. Ken Hintz, campus minister of the North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City and the speaker at last Sunday's discussion in West Des

Moines, said he "wouldn't put anything past them."

The Way is "nothing to mess around with," said Hintz, who has studied the group. "They're bad news."

Concerns about the group's activity in Des Moines started this summer when Jeff Brown, 14, fled his mother's custody because she is a member of The Way and he wanted nothing to do with the group. The case has been referred for mediation to Polk County Juvenile Court.

Iowa representatives of The Way have declined to comment about the group, referring questions to New Knoxville, Ohio, the organization's headquarters. The person who handles questions there could not be reached for comment Wednesday because she reportedly wasn't in the office.

Literature supplied by the organization denies any similarity to religious cults, such as the People's Temple. Hundreds of that group's members committed suicide in Guyana in 1978, sparking concern about the power of groups that hold uncommon religious beliefs.

The Way claims a membership of

WAY  
Please turn to Page 5M

7A-1053-44

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 1 1982	
FBI - DES MOINES	

b6  
b7c

# Gosch boy's mom tells of phoned death threat

WAY

*Continued from Page One*

more than one million and has vast land holdings. Critics and past members say the organization practices "mind control." Way literature refers to it as "mind renewal." Central Iowa authorities acknowledge they walk a tightrope in discussing the organization. Although they have not uncovered any evidence that The Way has been involved in criminal activity, the officials recognize concerns about the group's practices.

"From what we know," Shandhan said, "I would say that they just wouldn't kidnap anybody on the street, but you can never be sure... We are maintaining contact with the organization, and up to this point they have cooperated with us."

In the case of John Gosch, he said, authorities have not ruled out The Way, or anything else, for that matter.

The boy's mother said Thursday that she and her husband have hired a private detective to check out what she called "the possible involvement" of The Way in her son's disappearance.

Noreen Gosch said the family received a letter and some literature about The Way about a week after the boy was last seen, "and that really made me start thinking along those lines." And she said a telephone caller threatened to kill her Wednesday night after she talked about The Way on television reports.

"It's possible that they don't have

my son," she said, "and it's also very possible that they do."

Carla Pfeiffer, director of the Norfolk Enrichment Center in Norfolk, Neb., which claims to "deprogram" cult members, said her experience with The Way indicates that the organization would not resort to criminal activity. "Most of their harassment, if there is any, is in the form of letters and telephone calls, usually directed against ex-members," she said.

Pfeiffer also said it would be "very, very unusual" for the group to approach a minor because of the legal ramifications involved.

But Hintz said, "The only thing that I can say with certainty is to not rule out violence."

J. Barry Vosler, zoning enforcement officer in Des Moines, said his office has received several calls from concerned residents that Way members have moved into their neighborhoods.

"There's all kinds of rumors about The Way," he said. "You hear all sorts of things about them. People are a little bit nervous about it."

For that reason, Gugel said, he invited Hintz to speak in West Des Moines. "There's a real concern out there," said Gugel, who explained the dilemma facing religious leaders and law enforcement officials when it comes to The Way.

"You don't want people being hysterical and seeing their hand behind everything that happens," he said. "But, on the other hand, they need to be alert and informed to what's going on. It would also be bad to ignore them."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, IowaDate Fri., Oct. 8, 1982  
Edition MorningTitle UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIMCharacter POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or

Classification 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

## Gosches refuse lie-detector tests

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Redline Staff Writer

The parents of missing newspaper carrier John Gosch have declined two requests from authorities to take lie-detector tests.

John Gosch, father of the 12-year-old youngster missing since Sept. 5, said: "Basically, we thought it was pointing a finger at us and we've got nothing to hide."

The elder Gosch, who will be appearing with his wife, Noreen, on ABC's "Good Morning America" Monday, said he was advised by his attorney not to take the lie-detector test.

The parents' refusal indicated that a rift was developing between them and authorities as the month-old investigation has yet to yield a shred of evidence about what happened to the youngster.

Asked how he felt about the investigation, Gosch said: "I think they can do a heck of a lot better."

Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Division of Criminal Investigation, said John and Noreen Gosch were not suspected to be involved in their son's disappearance. He said the tests were

JOHN  
GOSCH

requested "as a normal investigative technique."

"It was needed at this stage of the investigation to resolve issues that have not been resolved and to try to separate certain information from hearsay information," Shanahan said.

The initial request was made Wednesday. Thursday Shanahan went to the Gosch home at 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines for another try.

Shanahan said the meeting was "very instructive" and the Gosches expressed their concerns.

The Gosches said they opposed the tests because they felt they were "unreliable," Shanahan said. He said they also were concerned that if the test were given it might be interpreted that they were involved in their son's disappearance.

Asked about Gosch's criticism of the investigation, Shanahan said: "Everybody is entitled to their own opinion. We try to work with everybody."

The boy's father said he and his wife have hired two detectives to help find their son. "I think the police have reached a dead end," he said. "The private investigators will be allowed to do things normally police cannot do," he said.

Gosch said the detectives "have quite a bit of background on cuts."

7A-1053-43

SERIALIZED	INDEXED
Searched	Filed
OCT 11 1982	
FBI - OMAHA	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3A Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, IowaDate: 10/4/82  
Edition:

Title:

Character:

OR

Classification:

Submitting Office:

# Call to Gosch home probed

By BILL GORDON

Register Staff Writer

Authorities say they are investigating a telephone call received early Saturday by John and Noreen Gosch, parents of a missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier, in which a caller reportedly demanded a cash ransom for the return of 12-year-old John Gosch.

"We are investigating the phone call. It appears to be a hoax at the present time," said Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

Noreen Gosch said Sunday that two telephone calls came about five minutes apart at about 1:20 a.m. Saturday. In the first, a woman identified herself as a member of The Way International, a religious group that has been in the news recently.

"She said, 'We have your son.' Then she hung up," Noreen Gosch said.

She said that in the second call, a man said the boy would be returned if the parents left \$25,000 at the corner of Ninth and Crocker in Alkiety. Investigators said there is no such intersection.

Noreen Gosch said the caller gave no time for the payment to be made. The parents are awaiting further instructions, she said.

The Gosch boy has been missing since Sept. 3. He was last seen as he began his Des Moines Sunday Register route near his home at 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines.

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 5 1982	
FBI-OMAHA	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

FBI/DOJ

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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# FBI Asks Public For Help in '82 Kidnapping Case

The FBI is seeking public help in locating a man who may have information about the kidnapping of a 12-year-old Iowa boy more than 10 years ago. The man made a collect phone call from the San Francisco Greyhound bus terminal November 30 to the victim's mother.

Rick Smith, an FBI spokesman in San Francisco, said John David Gosch left home for his early-morning paper route in West Des Moines on Sept. 5, 1982, with his dog, a bicycle and a wagon filled with papers.

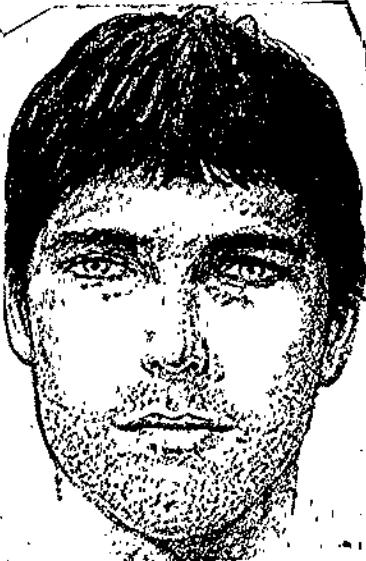
After customers complained of not receiving their paper, the boy's wagon was found with the newspapers, and the dog returned home alone.

John was last seen by another delivery boy talking to a man in a blue car.

The call from the Greyhound terminal at 425 Mission Street was made in the late afternoon.

Smith said there was no conversation after a connection was established, but a witness picked up the phone afterward when it rang, and the operator asked for the man who placed the call. The witness noted that the man was standing nearby and identified himself as "John." He was described as being white, 5-foot-7 or 5-foot-8, of medium build, with dark brown hair.

Anyone with information is asked to telephone the San Francisco FBI office at 415-553-7400.



Composite drawing of the man the FBI wants to question

Date: 12-11-92  
Edition: 5 Star  
D8 S.F.Chronicle  
San Francisco, Ca.

Title:

UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH  
Character: KIDNAPPING  
or  
Classification: 7-OM-1053  
Submitting Office: SF

Indexing

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 15 1992	
FBI - SAN FRANCISCO	

7-04-1053-35

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1 and 14

Des Moines Tribune

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Thurs., Sept. 9, 1982

Edition: Evening

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
 VICTIM  
 Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

# Porch light burns, a beacon of hope for missing boy

By Frank Santiago

John Gosch shared a tender joke with his mother about the porch light. "Ah, Mom," he'd say when his mother fussed about him being away. "You can always leave the porch light on."

That light now burns round the clock at the Gosch home at 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines.

It has become a beacon of hope.

Gosch, 12, remained missing today. He went to deliver his newspapers early Sunday and vanished without a trace. Hundreds of searchers have failed to turn up a shred of information. Police, who list the youngster as "missing" rather than abducted, are baffled but doggedly continue the search.

Reward money is mounting. The

Register and Tribune Company is offering \$5,000 award for information leading to the whereabouts of the youth who carried the Des Moines Sunday Register and the Tribune. Today, the West Des Moines Express offered \$500. West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney said other local businesses have said they expect to contribute more.

Psychics have become deeply involved in the case. The police have called upon Greta Alexander, a Delavan, Ill., woman for help.

Some two hours after Gosch disappeared, his mother, Noreen, had contacted a Rock Island, Ill., psychic for leads. Noreen Gosch said today she was impressed with information that psychic provided.

Standing outside her home today, Noreen Gosch said the porch light had become that "little extra thing

I hope he reads or hears about."

W.D.M.

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JOHN GOSCH

7A-1053-33

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 11 1982	
FBI - OMAHA	

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TRIBUNE PHOTO BY CHUCK ANDERSON

Noreen and John Gouch sit on the front porch of their West Des Moines home this morning. The porch light stays on for their missing son.

# Porch light burns for missing boy

W.D.M. —

*Continued from Page One*  
and knows it's on. It will be that little extra comfort for him. She believes he has been abducted but is alive.

"Maybe, just maybe, if someone comes by and drops him off in the night, he'll see it. It's a understanding we have."

Late Wednesday, the Gosches thought they might have gotten that special call at the door.

The door bell rang and everybody jumped. We rushed to the door. But it was a neighbor who had just gotten into town and wanted to know how we were.

"We've had good friends and a lot of support and sympathy. I know this sounds Pollyannish, but the members of this family aren't filled with hatred. We just want our son back home."

The ordeal has begun to wear on the family. Noreen Gosch talks about how it "has been 100 hours" of waiting.

She smiles when she speaks of the porch light. But it isn't with happiness. It's with the fond memories of her son.

"He made a big thing about it," Noreen Gosch said.

She did that she called a psychic Sunday named Florian, who lives in Rock Island, Ill. The woman had been recommended by a friend.

"I happen to believe in the ability of psychics. I know it works. It's not an exact science. But I don't see that we have the privilege to exclude anything."

Gosch said the psychic told her that John was safe and was being held

## R and T offers \$5,000 reward

The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the whereabouts of John Gosch.

John Gosch is a 12-year-old Register and Tribune newspaper carrier who was last seen at about 5 a.m. Sunday as he was starting his newspaper route near Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines. He is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds.

When he disappeared, he was believed to be wearing either black sweatpants and a white pullover with black lettering on the back saying "Kim's Academy," or a white T-shirt and cutoff jeans.

The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company urges anyone with information concerning John Gosch's disappearance to call West Des Moines police at 223-3211 or 224-4000.

against his will somewhere in the state.

"She described a blue car and a man in it," she said. "That was before police had released the information about how they were looking for a blue car."

Police continued to search for a blue car, which witnesses said had Warren County license plates. John Gosch, while he was out delivering his papers near Forty-second and

Marcourt in West Des Moines, was seen talking to a man in a blue car. The man was believed to have been asking for directions.

A second car, a silver, late-model Ford Fairmont with a large black stripe across the side, was also seen. West Des Moines Chief Cooney said it hadn't been located.

Cooney said the search now will use airplanes from state agencies, including the Iowa State Patrol. The planes will sweep along rivers and wooded areas. The search effort on foot will continue.

He said police remain in contact with psychic Alexander but her information has yielded no firm leads. Cooney declines to say where she got officers, but he said it wasn't in West Des Moines.

"I'm not sure we really understand her. She tells us that the information is confidential. But then we see that she is saying things in the newspaper."

Cooney said that Alexander remains a "valuable tool" and will be consulted.

It is not clear what Gosch was wearing at the time of his disappearance. Other carriers who remembered seeing him that morning said he was wearing a white T-shirt and cut-off jeans.

He left home before his parents had awakened.

But Noreen Gosch said it is likely he was wearing a pullover, white hooded sweatshirt with the words "Kim's Academy" across the back and black sweat pants with elastic at the ankles. She said those items are missing from the home.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 11

Des Moines Tribune

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Wed., 9/22/82

Edition: Evening

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM  
Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Expert doubts W.D.M. lad was a victim of 'cultnapping'

By Dewey Knudson

Religious cults are not known for kidnapping new members, an official of a nationwide organization that helps parents look for missing children said today.

But local law enforcement authorities are not ruling out the possibility of a cult kidnapping in the disappearance more than two weeks ago of a 12-year-old West Des Moines boy.

Authorities say they remain baffled by the case of John Gosch, who has not been seen since he was preparing to deliver newspapers Sept. 5.

His mother, Noreen Gosch, said she believes "a strong possibility" exists that a religious cult snatched her son near their home and is holding him.

"There are a number of them that do abduct young people," she told a reporter Tuesday. "They do. I've checked. I have been in touch with high sources for the last few days. And I've got some pretty straight information from different parts of the country."

However, "It has not been our experience that a child the age of John is abducted by a religious cult," Jeanette DeMenkoff, of Child Find Inc. offices in New York state, said today.

Most cult-related cases involving children, she said, stem from a fight between parents.

Usually, one parent who is going into the cult will take the child with them," DeMenkoff added. "Cults do not kidnap the children."

Neither Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, nor West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney said they ever had seen a documented case of abduction by a religious cult.

"Most of them, they have got other ways," Cooney said this morning. "But you can't just overlook the fact that some may do that."

"We haven't ruled out anything, and we won't. We will follow up on anything we get as best we can."

Shanahan said DCI agents "don't have any evidence, one way or the other, to prove or disprove whether a religious cult may have been involved."

Noreen Gosch said mail she received from a cult sparked her concern that a religious group could be responsible for her son's disappearance.

7A-1053-32

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 23 1982	
FBI/DOJ	



MORRISON  
GOSCH

JOHN  
GOSCH

She said she also received a letter that said, "God knows exactly where John is located and exactly when John will be released."

Gosch would not identify the cult, saying that could endanger her son's life.

"I'm begging, really pleading with them to turn him loose," she said. "He's only 12. He's not 16 or 17 years old. He's only 12."

While Gosch clings to hope, other parents are worried about their own children and are seeking to prevent another disappearance.

"It's a fearful time right now for parents," said Candy Gilchrist of the local chapter of Child Find Inc.

She is trying to persuade school officials to set up an "abduction awareness" program for elementary and junior high school students in West Des Moines.

In addition, the Gosch abduction caused other parents to turn to Child Find to express their fears.

"We have got more calls from people concerned about the cults," Gilchrist said. "People are definitely fearful about the cults."

Gilchrist said public fears about cults are understandable "because so many of them spring up so quickly. People don't know about them, they just fear them."

Police appear stymied in their investigation of the Gosch disappearance.

"Every time I get a call," Cooney said, "all I can say is that I don't have anything more than I did on Sunday," referring to the day the boy disappeared.

According to Child Find figures, two of every three child disappearances are at the hand of a parent, and the third was by a stranger.

"It is my own belief that most victims of stranger-abduction are for underground purposes (such as prostitution), or are found dead," DeMenkoff said. "I don't think I have heard of physical violence (by a cult) in a case like this."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Pages 1A and 3A  
 Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date: 9/22/82  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
 Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

# Mother fears missing son abducted by religious cult

By CHARLES BULLARD

Associated Press Writer

Noreen Gosch said Tuesday that she believes there "is a strong possibility" her missing son, John, was abducted by a religious cult.



"I do feel it is a strong possibility that one of the groups may have our son," she said in an interview.

"There are a number of them that do abduct young people,"

Gosch said. "They do, I've checked. I have been in touch with high sources for the last few days, and I've got some pretty straight information from different parts of the country."

West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney said his department investigated the possibility that Gosch was kidnapped by a cult, but reached a dead end. "We don't have any knowledge of anything like that," he said, adding, "I don't know where she got this information."

Cooney said investigators talked to some members of religious cults, but came up empty-handed. "I'll be honest with you," he said. "We don't

have anything. We don't have any more than the day we started. I wish we did have something, but we just don't."

Gosch appealed to members of the cult to return her son, who disappeared near his West Des Moines home while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register on Sept. 5.

"I'm begging, really pleading with them to turn him loose. He's only 12, he's not 16 or 17 years old. He's only 12," she said, referring to the fact that John looks older than he is.

"I'm just asking that they return him, set him free. ... I'm not looking for vengeance. I would just like to have the boy returned to us. ... We love this boy. He is our whole world and we would like to have him back."

Gosch also said authorities told her that newspaper carriers have been picked up by a religious cult while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, taken to religious gatherings that lasted 15 or 20 minutes and returned so they could finish their routes.

She said she was told the abductions happened in Des Moines three or

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 3A

7A-1053-31

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 24 1982	
FBI/DOJ	

d/j

# Nationwide search is on for boy, DCI chief says

GOSCH

*Continued from Page One*  
four Sundays before her son disappeared.

"I was not given the names of the boys. I was not given what location in Des Moines that this happened. This was told to me by the authorities. They have since denied it. They have denied it publicly for the protection of those boys."

"We have had no reports of any contacts or any abductions," said Charles Edwards Jr., circulation director for The Des Moines Register and Des Moines Tribune newspapers. "I know for a fact that if any carriers were contacted, we would have heard about it. We have had no reports that substantiate what she is saying."

On the possibility the boy was abducted by a cult, Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said he has no evidence to support that contention.

"This thing about cults surfaced recently," he said. "We have researched that very carefully. We haven't received any information that a cult was involved. However, we haven't ruled it out."

Shanahan also said authorities have received no information that other carriers have been approached by cult members. "That is completely new to us," he said. "The investigation did not show anything of that nature."

Shanahan also revealed that the search for the missing boy has gone nationwide and that the FBI has promised its cooperation in tracking down any out-of-state leads.

Gosch said she believes her information is correct but can't reveal her sources. "I have some private sources that I am going through and for the protection of those people, I am not revealing their names. I can't."

However, Gosch said her son will talk to authorities. "They have agreed to do that because they said they will do anything they can to assist me to find my son because they know what it's like. They've been there. They've seen other parents."

## Received information

Gosch said she began looking into the possibility that a cult took her son after receiving some information from a cult in the mail.

"We have received information from a certain cult, but they have not identified themselves by saying they have our child. They sent us literature."

Also enclosed was a letter about John's disappearance, she said. The letter writer said, "God knows exactly where John is located and exactly when John will be released."

The mother declined to specify which sect she believes has her son. She said identifying the group could put her son's life in danger.

Gosch said she decided to speak out about what she has learned because she wants other parents to be warned about cults in Iowa.

"It is not only my duty as a citizen, but it is my responsibility as a mother, now that I know these things, to try and do something."

"And just maybe if whoever has him reads this, they might turn him loose. It's a long shot, but I've got to do something."

"I wouldn't be making a statement like this if it were totally absurd. I wouldn't do that."

When asked if she believes John is still alive, Gosch replied: "Yes, I do. I won't give up on that. The porch lights stay on for him."

Rewarded money totaling \$33,000 is being offered for information about the boy's whereabouts.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Pieces still don't fit puzzle of W.D.M. lad

By Frank Santiago

Each morning, state and local investigators assemble at the West Des Moines police station to work on a puzzle.

Where is 12-year-old John Gosch? What happened to the youngster when he vanished Sept. 5 while delivering newspapers in West Des Moines?

For more than two weeks, the 10 or so Division of Criminal Investigation agents and West Des Moines detectives have been unable to fit the pieces together.

Despite a growing stack of reports and daily phone calls, investigators still do not have a solid clue.

"We've got a few leads but not

much more," said West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney.

Investigators have been unable to find two cars reportedly seen in the area where Gosch disappeared, his bright yellow Des Moines Register and Tribune delivery bag has not been located and there have been no inside tips despite offers of more than \$38,000 in rewards for information.

But Cooney said today he remained optimistic "that eventually something turns up. We're following every lead we can get. Eventually, there's going to be something that turns up."

The chief said he believes the youngster is alive, although, with passing time, the hope diminishes.

Cooney said he continues to receive "leads" from Greta Alexander, the Illinois psychic, but none of the information has produced evidence.

"I can't put myself in the position where I'd say it wasn't helpful. What I'm saying is that I'm not going to say I'm not a believer. I've seen cases where (information from psychics) has been very valuable," Cooney said.

Gosch, who is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs about 140 pounds, has light brown hair and blue eyes.

He disappeared while delivering newspapers near Forty-second and Marcourt streets in West Des Moines about 6 a.m. He had a wagon loaded with newspapers, none of which had been delivered.

The cars being sought by police are a blue over blue full-size auto with Warren County license plates, and a silver Ford Fairmont with a large black stripe along the side.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3

Des Moines Tribune

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Tues., Sept. 21, 1982

Edition: Evening

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

7A-1053-30

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 23 1982	
FBI/DOJ	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Page 108

Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Thurs., Sept. 9, 1982

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

## Airplane fails to turn up sign of missing boy

By CAROL PITTS

Register Staff Writer

West Des Moines newspaper carrier John Gosch remained missing Wednesday after four days of intensive searching.

Volunteers and 25 law enforcement officials searched fields, farms, old buildings and areas along the Raccoon River for the 12-year-old boy, who disappeared about 6 a.m. Sunday as he began his newspaper route.

The Iowa State Patrol flew an airplane over the area searching for any sign of the boy, said West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney. The pilot spotted an object in Lake Halice in Urbandale, but police in a boat determined it was a 1½-foot fish, said Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

Meanwhile, Cooney said authorities checked out leads offered by psychic Greta Alexander. The Delavan, Ill., psychic predicted that the boy is alive but being held against his will.

Alexander predicted something would happen Wednesday afternoon, but Shanahan said, to his knowledge, nothing did.

Cooney said all of Alexander's tips have proven to be negative thus far. He would not say what they were.

Gosch disappeared Sunday without delivering newspapers to the 37 customers on his route. Authorities said they have no information indicating he was kidnapped, nor do they have evidence indicating he just ran away.

Shanahan said authorities are considering the case a "disappearance." He said, "We're trying to find him. A missing person indicates we're not concerned. Truly, we are. We've been putting a lot of effort into finding him."

Cooney asked that people search buildings on their property for clues to Gosch's disappearance. Police also were seeking two cars that were seen in the neighborhood about the time of the disappearance — a blue, full-size car with Warren County license plates and a silver, late-model Ford Fairmont with a wide black stripe.

Anyone with information about the cars or the boy is asked to call the West Des Moines police at 224-4000 or 223-3211.

7A-1053-29

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 1 1982	
FBI/DOJ	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Pages 1A and 4A  
**Des Moines Register**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
 Date: Tues., Sept. 7, 1982  
 Edition: Morning

# 1,000 volunteers search for missing W.D.M. boy

By CAROL PITTS

Register Staff Writer

Somber searchers anxiously combed woods and parks, fields and ditches around West Des Moines Monday looking for a missing newspaper carrier.

More than 1,000 volunteers spent the Labor Day holiday tramping across thousands of acres looking for 12-year-old John Gosch and his newspaper bag, shoes or clothing.

The boy was last seen at about 5 a.m. Sunday as he began his paper route near Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane in a newer neighborhood of West Des Moines.

The searchers lined up about five feet apart, said they were hopeful but conceded they feared the worst.

Others drove slowly along the ditches that line rural roads in Polk and Dallas counties, straining for signs of the boy. More volunteers cruised the MacVicar Freeway.

The search was called off for the day at dark, and authorities found no clues to the boy's disappearance, said West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney. As the second day passed with no sign of Gosch, spirits also lowered. "Everybody's saying a little prayer and hoping for the best," Cooney said. Searchers are operating under the philosophy that "he is alive until proven otherwise," the chief said.

"The time factor is something we're not happy about," Cooney said Monday night. But, he added, "We have nothing to make us believe he is not alive."

## Walk and Look

At South Woods Park in West Des Moines, more than 100 people hiked across wet grass on soft ground seeking anything to indicate the boy had been there. One found footprints to and from a clearing. Gnats and mosquitoes hovered nearby, relentlessly biting the intruders. Another

searcher found a Kleenex among the reddening sumac, nettles and brush.

Authorities were summoned to see whether the finds amounted to anything.

"Don't trample on the area. Don't touch anything," shouted one man, who refused to identify himself, as he organized the search party at South Woods. "You're just here to walk and look."

Gene Meyer, a special supervisor for the state Division of Criminal Investigation, which was called in Monday afternoon, said there were no indications the boy was kidnapped. But he and Cooney said they have no evidence that Gosch simply ran away, either.

## Seen Talking to Man

Gosch was seen by another paperboy talking to someone in the distance shortly before he vanished Sunday. The other carrier told authorities a man wearing a baseball style cap had driven by in a dark blue car and asked each boy in a separate conversation for directions to the same location.

Police say they are looking for the car, which bore Warren County license plates, and its driver, but they said Monday they weren't considering him a suspect.

Title: UNSUB;  
**JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM**

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
 or

Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

Police said Monday there was another car — a silver late-model Ford Fairmont with a wide black stripe — in the area at the same time, and they are also seeking that car and driver.

Meanwhile, authorities told searchers to keep their eyes peeled for a yellow newspaper bag, the mystery man's baseball cap, or the black sandals with blue straps, the white T-shirt or blue shorts the boy was wearing.

"If you find something, just freeze," a search organizer told a crew of volunteers that ranged from children to the elderly. Most wore heavy pants and long-sleeved shirts to combat the nettles, bugs and brush.

As volunteers finished searching

BOY

Please turn to Page 4A

7A-1053-2D

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 15 1982	
FBI/OMAHA	

O/P

REGISTER PHOTO BY DAVE PETERSON



## Search party combs park area

Civic groups and volunteers gathered to form a search party of about 1,000 people Monday afternoon in the hunt for John Gosch, 12, of 1004 Forty-fifth

St., West Des Moines, who disappeared Sunday morning. Pictured are some of about 100 people searching the South Woods Park area.

## R and T offers reward of \$5,000

The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the whereabouts of John Gosch.

John Gosch is a 12-year-old Register and Tribune paperboy who was last seen at about 6 a.m. Sunday as he was starting his newspaper route near Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines. He is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds. When he disappeared he was wearing shorts and a T-shirt.

The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company urges anyone with information concerning John Gosch's disappearance to call West Des Moines police at 223-3211 or 224-4000.

## Nothing is ruled out so far in hunt for missing boy, 12

### BOY

Continued from Page One

one area, they tramped back to the West Des Moines police station and were dispatched to another area. Boy Scouts, volunteer firefighters, off-duty and reserve police officials from the American Red Cross and the state office of Disaster Services, relatives of the boy, friends, neighbors and citizens hunted for Gosch.

Jack Crandall, head of the disaster office, said the search was concentrated in West Des Moines, Clive, Dallas County and Warren County.

Cooney said late Monday that authorities had mapped out a series of areas to be searched today, and the search would be conducted by the office of Disaster Services.

Cooney said he didn't know how many searchers would be needed until today. But he said many already have volunteered to help. "I think, from their attitudes, these people are waiting as long as we need them," he said. "They've done a very, very good job. After all day, if there would have been more daylight, they would still be going."

### Ham Radio Link

Ham radio operator Larry Kebel volunteered to assist officials in communication at South Woods Park. He contacted other ham radio operators, preparing a system to link officials with searchers and others via a combination of wireless gear and telephone lines.

A search Sunday night and earlier Monday for Gosch, the son of John and Noreen Gosch of 1004 Forty-ninth St. in West Des Moines, had yielded no clues, the boy's father said. He added,

"People all over are searching everywhere. But we don't know the motive or anything else."

Young Gosch had picked up the Sunday morning papers at Forty-second Street and Ashworth Road before 6 a.m. Sunday. He met a 15-year-old newspaper carrier there, and they parted to deliver the papers.

The 15-year-old told his mother that he saw Gosch talking to a man near Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane. The carrier said the man was bigger than Gosch, who is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds. The boy has not been seen since then.

The 15-year-old boy provided police with a description of the man and a sketch was drawn. Police Monday again declined to release the drawing. "We're just not confident it's a likeness," the DCT's Meyer said, adding, "Not that it may not be, but rather than confuse people, authorities have decided against making the sketch public for now."

West Des Moines Police Lt. Raymond Fidler said the man in the

drawing may have been only a drunk driver asking for directions.

Cooney said, "We'd just like to talk to the drivers, since they were seen in the vicinity. And we're not calling the cars suspect vehicles."

He said the drivers may have witnessed the boy's disappearance.

Cooney said all law enforcement agencies in Iowa have been notified by telephone, teletype, state radio and computer of the missing boy. Descriptions of the boy and the cars have been provided, Cooney said.

Authorities in other Midwestern states also have been notified, Meyer said.

Several people who claim to have psychic power have become involved in the search. Cooney and Meyer said they didn't ask for help from the psychics.

Meanwhile, the mother of another carrier said Sunday her 10-year-old son had been bothered this summer by a man driving a van. Her son ignored him and he didn't bother him further, the mother said. The boy apparently ran across yards to get away from the man.

"And he's scared now. He won't be going out alone anymore," his mother said. Several other parents of newspaper carriers in the area echoed her sentiments. "It makes you want to say, 'That's it, I don't need this.' But you don't want to let this beat you, either," the mother said.

District circulation managers called carriers and parents Monday night, telling them of Gosch's disappearance and warning them to be careful. "We're telling them to be cautious and don't get in any cars," said Lou Cooke, a district manager. If carriers see anything strange, they are told to knock on the door of a customer's home and notify authorities, she said.

"I've just never ever thought anything like this would happen in West Des Moines," said one mother of a newspaper carrier. "You'd think those would be the safest hours of the day." "I just hope they find him and he's well. And I hope they get whoever apprehended him. I'm worried the longer it goes by."

Parents of carriers said they are scared. "It's a nightmare what they're going through," said one carrier's mother. "It's new in West Des Moines. But it's not new. That's why we teach our children not to talk to strangers and not to get in cars. Now it's happened in our neighborhood. We don't want to live with this over our heads."

The disappearance of the boy is bothering other carriers, too. "My son had a hard time going to sleep tonight," one parent said.

Cooney said late Monday, "We've still got some leads. We're interviewing people we talked to

yesterday. We're following everything and anything that comes up." "Nothing Ruled Out"

Meyer added, "Nothing has been ruled out. We're still looking for a missing boy." "What we have is a boy who went to deliver his newspapers Sunday morning and disappeared. So all we have is a missing person. No one has seen him forcibly abducted or taken against his will."

Codney said Polk County Attorney Dan Johnston has been briefed on the search for the boy. He said Johnston "offered his suggestions and ideas" and "made calls for people to help search."

The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company Monday offered a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the whereabouts of Gosch.

"We're terribly concerned about this," said Michael Garner, president of the company. "We're mystified, and we feel helpless. We hope the offer of the reward will elicit some new information."

Anyone with information about the boy or the cars is asked to call the West Des Moines police at 223-3211 or 224-1000.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Psychic: W.D.M. lad still is alive



GRETA ALEXANDER



JOHN GOSCH

By Frank Santiago

A psychic whom police have asked for help in finding a missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier has told them he is alive but being held against his will, according to authorities.

That observation from Greta Alexander, whose predictions are both received and hotly rejected among law officers, nonetheless buoyed investigators.

"I still feel he's alive," West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney said today. "I've said that all along."

It was the only "clue" investigators said they have to the whereabouts of John David Gosch, 12, who vanished Sunday.

Alexander's statements are in indication how desperate authorities have become in their search for the youngster.

Police say there have been almost no leads.

"It's an old police thing, but you have to listen to everybody," Cooney said about the psychic.

What else the Delavan, Ill., woman has said about the missing carrier — where he is and in whose company — remains "confidential" at Alexander's behest, according to Cooney.

Reached at her home, Alexander confirmed her request.

"This is a precious boy and I don't want to say more," she said. "I feel if there is more it might flush out the man. This is a very strange case. I don't know. There are so many things around it. It's like a puzzle that's hard to put together. A very strange case."

Alexander said she expected something to happen later in the day, about 2 p.m. "I don't know what it is," she said, "but something."

When told of Alexander's prediction, John Gosch's father, of the missing boy, said, "We think he's alive. We're hopeful."

Gerald Shanahan — chief of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, which is assisting West Des Moines police — said of Alexander: "She never says where she thinks the person is."

"Her information may be valuable. It's only a tool. I'm impressed with her, although a lot of people don't share that view."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1 and 9

Des Moines Tribune

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Wed., Sept. 8, 1982

Edition: Evening

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIMCharacter: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
orClassification: 7A-1053  
Submitting Office: Omaha

Meanwhile, the foot-by-foot search continued for the youth, who last was seen about 6 a.m. Sunday as he prepared to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register near Forty-Second Street and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines.

The searches, which included as many as 1,000 volunteers Monday, have not produced a trace of the Indian Hills Junior High School seventh-grader, who also carries the Des Moines Tribune.

Also still not located is the bright yellow Des Moines Register and Tribune newspaper bag that Gosch was believed to have with him.

Cooney said today's search centered on soybean fields west of the city. He said some 30 volunteers went over ground covered before.

He said police had received numerous calls of help, including

W.D.M.

Please turn to Page Nine

7A-1053-27

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 12 1982	
FBI/DOJ	

0



A late-model silver Ford Fairmont with a wide black stripe, similar to the car above, is being sought in connection with the disappearance of 12-year-old John Gosch of West Des Moines. If anyone has any information on such a car, he or she should contact the West Des Moines police department.

## Psychic: W.D.M. boy still is alive

**W.D.M. —**

Continued from Page One  
some from persons who jog and walk through the area. West Des Moines police have been stopping joggers and motorists and asking if they had any valuable information about the youth's disappearance.

Cooney made a request that vacant buildings in central Iowa be checked by their owners for traces of the youngster.

Earlier searches took volunteers to Warren County and over a broad area in and near West Des Moines.

Shanahan said the FBI had been monitoring the disappearance of Gosch, son of John and Noreen Gosch of 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines. But he said the agency has not been called in.

Cooney said the case still was being considered as a "missing person."

"That's all we can call it right now. It isn't an abduction or a runaway because we don't have any evidence to that."

Police still are attempting to find the drivers of two cars seen in the area by other newspaper carriers that dark morning.

Cooney said the drivers are not suspects, but police are anxious to talk to them for information.

One vehicle is described as a blue over blue full-size car with Warren County license plates. Gosch reportedly talked to the driver, who witnesses said had asked for directions. The driver was described as clean-shaven and weighing about 200 pounds.

The second car is described as a silver late-model Ford Fairmont with a large black stripe along the side.

Cooney said investigators have been combing state vehicle registrations in an attempt to find those cars.

Cooney reiterated what he said before about the missing youngster. He was dependable, had no problems with his family or others, and gave no indication he was unhappy.

Gosch, accompanied by his dog, left his house shortly before 6 a.m. and walked about three blocks to pick up the papers where they had been dropped off.

He loaded the bundle of papers into a wagon and started on his route. And although the bundle had been unsnapped, none of the papers had been delivered. The youngster's dog returned home.

Some two hours after the Gosch was supposed to begin his route, his father went looking for him.

The DCI's Shanahan said that the use of psychics like Alexander needs considerable amount of research.

"When she lectured at a recent meeting in Cedar Falls, she talked about the cases she has worked with," he said. "I didn't personally follow through on them, but what she said was interesting."

"She has said that a body would be found in a ditch. Well, that's where you might expect it to be since ditches are normal dumping places for bodies."

"Whether there are circumstances to what she does or just luck, I don't know."

Newspaper clippings of Alexander's work on Iowa cases reveal mixed success.

In one of the biggest manhunts in Iowa history, in 1980, she first predicted that Dawn and Dan Kriegel,

suspected in the theft of the Grinnell State Bank, would be found alive.

Later, however, she changed her prediction and said she saw Dan lying face down in the grass, near a body of water, and that he had been shot.

Dan Kriegel was found face down in a ditch, shot at least five times. The body was near a creek.

She said Dawn Kriegel's body was close by. It was found 35 miles away.

Alexander also said that the search for 3-year-old Justin Stahly near Lake Park a year ago would find the youngster stuck somewhere.

Justin was found three days later unharmed, lying at the edge of a neighbor's cornfield. It was not known if he had been stuck anywhere.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below).

# Dad: I'll do anything for son's return

By Frank Santiago

"If they want anything... tell us what it is."

John Gosch, his face drawn, said it with determination, but with a sad helplessness.

Whoever "they" are and whatever "they" want, Gosch is ready to pay them the price to get his son back.

Please, he seems to say with his eyes, he's our son.



JOHN  
GOSCH

On Sunday, 12-year-old John Gosch, youngest of three Gosch children, set out to deliver newspapers in the early morning darkness. He picked up the bundle of papers, put them in his wagon and headed off with his small dog, Gretchen. And vanished.

Today, West Des Moines police continued their search for the youngster. Chief Orval Cooney said the boy continues to be listed as a missing person.

Cooney said investigators, now including agents of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, are reluctant to call it an abduction. There has been no evidence of a kidnapping or foul play. There remains no evidence, he added, as to how John Gosch disappeared and why.

There are only wisps. A man in blue seen talking to the youngster; a second car observed in the neighborhood were young Gosch vanished.

Today, both of those leads appeared to have cooled. Police want to talk to the drivers, but neither apparently is considered a suspect.

But as the time passes with no word of the boy's whereabouts, Cooney said, prospects grow dimmer.

The Gosches, standing outside their home at 1004 Forty-ninth St. in West Des Moines, a neighborhood of expensive homes and sprawling, grassy lawns, spoke as if their son had been kidnapped.

"They know they have us over a barrel," said Noreen Gosch. "You are never more vulnerable."

The parents can't believe that John, a faithful newspaper carrier, well liked by schoolmates, a football player, a junior high school student who spoke out against drugs, could have simply walked away.

"He isn't that kind of kid," said a woman who was a the home of the Gosches, the youngster's natural parents. "He's too innocent."

Dale Miller, principal of the Crossroads Park Elementary in West Des Moines where Gosch attended school last year, said: "We are upset but we're hopeful."

John Gosch, who started seventh grade at Indian Hills Junior High School Aug. 26, got out of bed about 5:30 a.m. Sunday. His brother, Joe, who rises about the same time to go to work at a nearby restaurant,

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1 and 8

Des Moines Tribune

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Tues., Sept. 7, 1982

Edition: Evening

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIMCharacter: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
orClassification: 7A-1053  
Submitting Office: Omaha

7A-1053-26

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 11 1982	
FBI/DOJ	

Icp

knocked on his door. But John said his father was already awake.

"We were planning to go to the lake Sunday and he was going to take along a friend. He was pretty excited. He said he didn't want to wake us," he said.

As he had done for during the past two months of delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, the youngster got dressed, went downstairs, got his dog and wagon and went to pick up his newspapers. During inclement weather, he got help from his father. But not this Sunday.

He walked across a neighbor's lawn, then three short blocks to the paper drop, near Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane. He was seen about 6 a.m. by other carriers.

About that time a man, described as clean shaven, weighing about 200 pounds, and wearing a baseball-type cap, stopped in the neighborhood. He was driving a full-size car with Warren County license plates. Cooney said witnesses said the man asked directions. There was report that it appeared he had been drinking.

The witnesses told police they saw Gosch, who is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds, and has been a karate student, talking to the man.

It was the last known sighting of the youngster. A second vehicle, seen

W.D.M.

Please turn to Page Eight

## Dad: I'll do anything for son's return

W.D.M.

Continued from Page One

at Forty-second and Marcourt shortly later, was in the area. It was silver with a large black stripe through the middle and was a late model Ford Fairmont.

Gosch apparently vanished with his newspaper bag, rubber bands and a small tool to break the wire on the newspaper bundle. The wagon, with all the undelivered newspapers in them, were found about a block away. The bundle had been opened as if the newspapers were about to be delivered.

Gosch said his son's disappearance wasn't noticed in the home until the dog returned without him. He then went out looking for him.

Cooney said: "He was very dependable with his papers. Nobody can believe what has happened to him."

"There have been no problem. The family had no troubles, he had no trouble with anyone on the route. He was a happy boy as far as we know."

Cooney said the West Des Moines police have been receiving "constant" calls; some of them spurred on by an offer from the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company of \$5,000 for information leading to the whereabouts of Gosch.

Michael Gartner, president of the company, said: "We're terribly concerned about this. We're mystified and we feel helpless. We hope the offer of the reward will elicit some new information."

Police, looking for shred of information were stopping motorists and joggers in West Des Moines Monday evening and early today, asking if they had seen any traces of the youngster or had any valuable information.

Said Cooney, "We don't want to

## R and T offers \$5,000 reward

The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the whereabouts of John Gosch.

John Gosch is a 12-year-old Register and Tribune paperboy who was last seen at about 6 a.m. Sunday as he was starting his newspaper route near Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines. He is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds. When he disappeared, he was wearing shorts and a T-shirt.

The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company urges anyone with information concerning John Gosch's disappearance to call West Des Moines police at 223-3211 or 224-4000.

overlook anything.

Monday some 1,000 volunteers tramped through a wide area of West Des Moines and surrounding fields looking for clues.

Sometimes lined up five feet apart, the searchers walked through insect-infested fields.

The search was expected to be concentrated in the Brown's Wood area and along the Raccoon River.

Gosch said of his son. He bought a motorcycle with his newspaper money. He liked to mow lawns. He is a good dependable person.

He was believed to be wearing a white t-shirt. It wasn't immediately known if he was also wearing blue cut-offs or black jogging pants. He has light brown hair and blue eyes.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Volunteers scour woods in vain search for boy

By CAROL PITTS

Register Staff Writer

Volunteer searchers — some of them on horseback — scoured Walnut Woods State Park and other areas



Tuesday, but found no evidence of a West Des Moines boy who has been missing since early Sunday.

About 100 volunteers combed Hoak Road, Greenbelt Park, banks along the Raccoon River and other heavily wooded areas, but none of them found a trace of John Gosch, 12.

Gosch hasn't been seen since 6 a.m. Sunday, when he began his newspaper delivery route near Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane in a West Des Moines neighborhood of expensive houses and large lawns.

Gretel Alexander, a psychic from Delavan, Ill., has been asked to aid in the search, but West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney would not say what Alexander told him.

"She asked us to keep our conversation confidential," Cooney said Tuesday night. He said the conversation "was very interesting. I'd more or less say it was general information."

#### Police Chief Hopeful

When asked if Alexander believes Gosch is alive, Cooney paused for several seconds before saying, "I'm not going to comment." But he added, "I've still got an awful lot of confidence" the boy will be found alive and well.

Cooney said Alexander is the first psychic called in, although others have offered their services. One police official has said, "We've had three or four psychics involved."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1A and 3A  
Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Date: Wed., Sept. 8, 1982  
Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPPING

or

Classification: 7A-1053  
Submitting Office: Omaha

Alexander had been asked to help in other cases of missing Iowans, including the 1981 disappearance of Justin Stahly of Lake Park and 1979 disappearance of Dawn and Dan Kriegel following a bank robbery in Grinnell.

Cooney said he will work with Alexander today, and that a couple other areas will be mapped out to be searched.

West Des Moines police have been stopping motorists and joggers in evening and early morning hours since Sunday, asking if they had seen any traces of the youngster or knew anything about his disappearance.

When searchers finished Tuesday, they returned to the police station with no new clues. Lt. Richard

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Wingone, of the Iowa State Patrol, said one trooper found a pair of brown shoes and a yellow cap in a ditch alongside Interstate Highway 35 near Ankeny Tuesday morning, but Cooney said the items were not worn by anyone who might have abducted Gosch.

#### Not a Runaway

Cooney said he has no evidence the youth was abducted, and officials still are considering Gosch a "missing person." Cooney also said he has no evidence the boy ran away.

"There have been no problems" between the boy and his family, he said. "The family had no troubles; he had no trouble with anyone on the route. He was a happy boy as far as we know."

The boy's parents, John and Noreen Gosch of 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines, remained hopeful, and John Gosch said he is prepared to pay whatever is necessary to get his son back.

The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company has offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the whereabouts of young Gosch, who has been a delivery boy for about a year. Cooney said a few people have called in offering information, but nothing has produced a new lead.

Authorities were seeking two cars

BOY  
Please turn to Page 3A

## W.D.M. chief asks drivers to come forward

### BOY

Continued from Page One

Tuesday — a dark blue, full-size car with Warren County license plates, and a silver, late-model Ford Fairmont with a wide, black stripe on the side.

Cooney said the drivers of the cars are wanted for questioning but are not suspects.

"It's difficult for us to understand why these people aren't coming forward," he said. "They were seen in the area. Those two cars, we feel, are very important to us."

Cooney said that anyone who sees cars resembling the descriptions should write down the license numbers and call the West Des Moines Police Department at 224-4000 or 223-2311.

The mother of another carrier has said the driver of the blue car talked with Gosch and two other newspaper carriers before Gosch's disappearance. She said the man asked each of the carriers directions to Eighty-sixth Street.

One of the carriers provided a description to police, who drew a sketch of the man. Police declined to release the drawing, and they said the man may have been an "intoxicated passerby."

#### School Mood Subdued

Meanwhile, classes resumed Tuesday at Indian Hills Junior High School where Gosch is a seventh-grade student. School officials said Gosch's empty seat influenced the mood of the school.

Superintendent Dale Grabinski said classes were conducted "as well as we could under the circumstances.... Everyone's hurting for the boy and his family. There's a lot of anxiety over it."

# Parents, police 'harassing' her, 'cult' member complains to FBI

By ROBERT BARKIN  
*Journal-Standard Staff Writer*

**WARWICK** — A young woman whose parents requested a statewide police search yesterday because they thought she was abducted by a religious cult has filed a harassment complaint with the FBI against her parents and the city's police department.

Lauri-Anne Bedard, 19, who lived with her parents at 314 Post Rd. until she disappeared Tuesday night, walked into the FBI office in Providence late yesterday afternoon, ending a day of police investigation and consultations between police and the attorney general's office.

Miss Bedard told FBI agents that she was "tired of being harassed" because of her membership in The Way International, said the Rev. Wally Manthey, the group's Rhode Island coordinator, who accompanied her to the FBI office.

"There is an issue here," he said, "of a person's right to believe what she wants to believe, which her parents and the Warwick police want to deny her."

Members of The Way say their group is "devoted to setting forth the inherent accuracy of God's Word." Members believe the only way to pray to God is to speak in tongues. The group has about 150,000 members worldwide, with 50,000 members in the United States.

\* \* \*

MISS BEDARD'S parents did not want to comment last night about what they originally called an abduction of their daughter.

Det. Capt. Frank Ricci of the Warwick police said that his detectives were merely trying to "ensure the safety and welfare of the subject involved," based on the complaint of the parents and previous correspondence with Miss Bedard.

As a result of the investigation, he said, he was "satisfied that she was not held against her will" and considered the case closed.

Miss Bedard could not be reached for comment and Manthey would not disclose where she would stay last night.

Warwick police began the investigation at 12:30 a.m. yesterday, when the Bedards reported that their daughter had been forcibly taken by members of The Way International sometime after she left a friend about 9 the previous night.

According to Ricci, Warwick police were familiar with the history of the woman's involvement in the group because of a letter she sent three weeks ago, notarized by the Port Chester, N.Y., Police Department. The letter stated that she considered the cult "dangerous" and that she wanted police and her parents to help her if she ever became involved with the group again.

\* \* \*

**EUGENE G. BEDARD**, Lauri's father, told police that his daughter had been in The Way International for three months but had been "deprogrammed" three weeks ago and wanted to be out of the cult. She had been living with her parents since the "deprogramming."

Bedard told police that when his daughter had not arrived home by 11:30 p.m., he went to 3 Martine St. in the Sandy Lane section, where the group has a residence.

Outside the house, Bedard found his daughter's automobile. He told police he knocked on the door, was told Lauri was not there and was permitted to enter the house. He searched the first floor of the house and could not find Lauri, but did not look in the basement because, he said, he was afraid.

When the police arrived, the man who answered the door said the policeman could not enter without a search warrant.

Ricci said that his men returned yesterday morning and were permitted to enter the house. They found no evidence that Lauri was present but were told that she had been there the previous

night. "They refused to say anything more," he said.

Ricci said that he pursued the investigation because of the letter he had received and consultations with the attorney general's office.

While his men were searching yesterday for Miss Bedard, her parents sought help from the FBI in Providence. Later yesterday, Ricci said, Lauri arrived at the FBI office, and his detectives and the Bedards were called to the office, where Lauri filed her complaint.

A spokesman for the the FBI could not be reached last night.

Manthey said Lauri told the FBI that she was acting on her "own, free will."

He said Lauri had come to the house at 3 Martine St. on her own. "No one took her last night," he said.

# Religious cult stirs controversy after man's death

By CLAY RYCE

Louisville Times Staff Writer

The night of Dec. 1, David H. Hagedorn was participating in a fellowship meeting with other members of the Way International Ministry in the Tree Tops Apartment complex in New Albany. About 8:30 p.m., he walked out of that meeting.

That's the last anyone saw of him—until his body was recovered from a swimming pool at the apartment complex last Saturday.

Though an autopsy is being performed, New Albany Police don't suspect foul play and consider Hagedorn's death accidental.

But his death did call attention to a religious group that, critics say, has intense powers over its members. The critics compare it to such groups as the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, the Children of God or Here Krishna.

That's not true, say members of the Way, its shortened name. They say it is only a Biblical study group whose members come together for fellowship.

Either way, the organization has many members in this country and the world. And according to a spokesman for the Way, Indiana is one of about eight major areas of outreach for the group.

Mary Hagedorn, David's mother, has a bitter feeling about the Way.

"I heard it was a terrible thing to get mixed up in," Mrs. Hagedorn said. But she added that she never could find out much about it.

The Way, which is nondenominational, was founded in the rural Western Ohio town of Van Wert in 1942 by Victor Paul Wierwille. It was incorporated there Oct. 30, 1947, according to the state secretary of state's office, with Wierwille as one of the three incorporators.

Questions for Wierwille about the group are handled by his press secretary, David Craley.

In 1960, Craley said, the Way moved its headquarters to a 150-acre farm, about 1 1/2 miles south of New Knoxville, also a small town in Western Ohio. The farm belonged to Wierwille's family.

The Way has members and Word Over the World Ambassadors in all 50 states and 51 foreign countries, Craley said. The WOW Ambassadors, as they're known, work in various cities and communities teaching at Biblical study sessions.

The structure of the international group is compared to a tree, with each believer considered a leaf. The leader of a state organization is a limb leader. The headquarters for Way of Indiana is Indianapolis. In Kentucky, it is Jeffersonontown.

The Way is different from the Sun Myung Moon and other cults, Craley said, because of its interest in the accuracy and integrity of the Bible.

Some of the other groups have man-made philosophies, he said, but Way members research all versions of the Bible for their guidance.

The Way's money is obtained from donations, including a \$100 donation for a 45-hour class on Biblical research called Power for Abundant Living.

Craley said the Way relies on "abundant sharing" from its members, who, like Mormons, "give freely from their own property."

One thing the Way does not do is keep track of how many people belong to it.

"We don't have a membership," Craley said. "We don't even like to talk about that."

The Way owns several properties. One is a 20-acre tract in Emporia, Kan., for the Way College, where Biblical study is

Friday Evening, March 4, 1977

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Louisville Times

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See RELIGIOUS  
Back page, col. 1, this section

# Religious cult

## stirs controversy

Continued From Page One

taught. The Way is seeking accreditation from the Kansas Department of Education for the college as a four-year school, Craley said.

The Way also bought the 197-acre Kneipp Springs Health Spa near Rome City, Ind., from the Sisters of the Precious Blood, a Catholic group, Craley said. This also will be used for a college, he said.

And the group purchased an old mansion in Sidney, Ohio, for the Way International Fine Arts and Historical Center. Craley explained, "We'll store historical records of the ministry (at the center)."

The colleges and historical center, he added, are supported by the ministry and by tuition.

One person The Times talked to who questioned the Way's activities has a daughter who is a member. The daughter also once lived in New Albany's Tree Tops complex.

Marilyn Morgan, of Smithtown, Long Island, N.Y., said her daughter Debbie, 21, lived in Tree Tops from early September to Nov. 27, when a sister brought her home.

On Nov. 29, Mrs. Morgan said, her daughter was admitted to a New York hospital with a nervous breakdown, "as the result of something that happened there" (the New Albany area). Mrs. Morgan has been unable to determine what that was.

Her daughter was to have been released yesterday, and Mrs. Morgan is concerned because the Way limb leader for New York state wants to take her daughter back into the Way.

"We have a lawyer working on this to prevent it," she said.

Mrs. Morgan also said "deprogramming" is being considered for her daughter. The term refers to therapy sessions, conducted by medical professionals, which have been somewhat successful in neutralizing the influence of a religious cult over an individual. It is a controversial technique because those being deprogrammed often enter the treatment unwillingly.

Craley said the Way's response to charges it holds an influence over its members is that "this kind of deprogramming is constitutionally illegal; that's where we stand on it."

Mrs. Morgan said her daughter became a Way member when she was a high school senior. Her grades began to suffer after she joined, she added.

"We didn't attribute it to the Way. The Bible is a difficult thing to put blame on. We are a Lutheran family, and respect the Bible," she explained.

Her daughter attended Way fellowship meetings, Mrs. Morgan said, and when she and her husband went to their second home in Vermont, meetings were held in the house.

Mr. Morgan believes the Way takes

its members from middle- and upper-income families.

This same view was shared by a member of the board of directors of a group formed in response to religious cults, Citizens Engaged in Reuniting Families, Harrison, N.Y.

He asked not to be identified because a family member belongs to a religious cult and he fears retaliation against the relative.

The group provides counseling for parents and their children.

Though he is a critic of the Way, he said it does help drug addicts.

"The parents' typical response is that it's better than drugs," he said.

Craley said the Way tries to present "something that is better than the drug experience." He said he was a former drug user who saw "the truth of the word of God."

Not only does the Way have its critics, but it also faces a lawsuit.

A \$295,625 suit was filed against it by a St. Mary's, Ohio, man who claims the Way did not live up to its promises. The Way in turn has filed a \$1.1 million countersuit against the man, claiming he defamed it.

According to The Lima (Ohio) News, in December 1976, in Auglaize County Common Pleas Court, Wapakoneta, Ohio, Timothy Goodwin filed a suit against the Way and two officers, Victor and Harry Wierwille, claiming Way officials defrauded him of part of a \$1.4 million car-accident settlement. That accident left Goodwin a quadriplegic.

Goodwin claims Way members were supposed to heal him so he could walk and they did not.

He claims that \$200,000 of his settlement was given to the Way, as well as another \$13,917 in contributions. He also claims that he bought a \$10,607 Cadillac for Harry Wierwille and an \$11,011 foreign car for Richard Marmor, a Way member.

Harry and Victor Wierwille filed a countersuit in January saying Goodwin's suit was designed to harass the Way and cause adverse publicity about it.

Nancy Molnar, 22, who is a branch leader for the Way in Jeffersonville, Clarksville and New Albany, sees nothing sinister in the group.

It's a fellowship group for people who want it, she said. "We don't push people into it. We make it available if they want it."

Miss Molnar would not discuss the Hagedorn death. She said the Morgan girl had problems when she entered the Way.

"We were trying to help her," Miss Molnar said.

Miss Molnar, who has been a Way member for six years, said her experience with the religious group has "taught me a lot about God and how He loves people. I'm willing to help us anytime we need him."

# Something Wrong' In Case Of Missing Man

By DALE SANDUSKY

At 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec.

1, David Hagedorn finished prayer-with a group of friends, stepped out of an apartment at the Tree Tops complex and disappeared.

Neither his friends or his family have seen or heard from the 24-year-old man since then and police are beginning to look at the case as something more than a routine missing report.

Captain Paul Parsons, chief of detectives for the New Albany police department, said he is not willing to term Hagedorn's disappearance as foul play at this point. Parsons who has talked with Hagedorn's parents on several occasions, the most recent being a 2½-hour interview that took place Wednesday, stated he believed "there's something definitely wrong" about the disappearance.

Hagedorn's parents have told police that though their son had traveled throughout Indiana and other states with a "Biblical Research Group," he had always either visited his Terre Haute home or contacted his family at least once a week.

No word has been received since Hagedorn simply left the apartment he was sharing with friends on the night of Dec. 1. His last previous contact with his parents had been on Thanksgiving, according to statements made to police.

Hagedorn and some companions, participants in what was termed "The Way International Ministry," a self-described "Biblical Research Group," were staying at the apartment while working in the Falls Cities area.

Hagedorn, himself, had been working at a Louisville hospital, a practice he had pursued while visiting Indianapolis and Appleton, Wis., previous to coming to New Albany. He had spoken to his parents about possibly seeking a job connected with

hospital work in Norfolk, Va., or "somewhere in North Carolina."

Police said Hagedorn's companions, who have remained here, can shed little light on what may have happened to him. The group had just finished prayers when Hagedorn simply walked from the apartment with no mention of where he was going.

He had no means of transportation that evening. Friends said he was clad in a light blue denim jacket, brown sweater and faded jeans.

Police checked at the Louisville hospital where he had been employed and found that he had not picked up his most recent paycheck.

Parsons, who furnished the picture of Hagedorn, said police are interested in any information that might shed some light on the man's whereabouts.

He said the picture is a recent likeness of the man with the exception that his hair was a little shorter when last seen.

He is further described as 6 feet tall, 160 lbs. with brown hair, hazel eyes and a u-shaped scar beneath his left breast.

DAVID HAGEDORN  
Still Missing

NEW ALBANY, INDIANA

THURSDAY  
February 10, 1977

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18 PAGES

126th Year, No. 29  
Phone 944-6481

# ABC investigating Way

American Broadcasting Corp. (ABC) is doing a news investigation of The Way school, headquartered in Shelby County near Loxville, apparently as an offshoot of mass suicides.

ABC reporters have reportedly been adding to the story to prepare for a news presentation, and are traveling across country conducting interviews of citizens.

The service is also looking into other less politically oriented organizations with comparable goals.

Details not investigated are Shelby County Sheriff Jarvis' role as legal counsel to the Way, as well as the status of the police force, which was authorized by Sidney Municipal Court Judge James Craley after 1972.

Now in the country, ABC is investigating that Way followers take rifle training at a mountain's college in Emporia, Kan., where they are being trained in survival techniques, the service said.

When asked about Craley at the New York headquarters, however, denied those claims had any merit.

The Public Research Center has received a couple of calls from major newspapers, the final death story broke, and "we're not sure at anything there is some kind of tax-exempt status that could be called a

"cult," he said. "As Way officials know, 'we are not in any kind of investigation, we are otherwise, right now.' He said The Way had been contacted by anyone from

## Law isn't contacted

Shelby County Sheriff John Lenhart today said he has been contacted by ABC television, concerning their investigation of The Way.

He acknowledged he spent some time with Attorney General William Brown's office, but noted that matter concerned about tax-exempt property laws.

He is currently being studied after a reporter for the examiner that about half of all of tax-exempt Way property owned. Lenhart said he spent half an hour with the exemption question, he reported it to the Attorney General's office investigating The Way, but a spokesman for that office this morning declined to comment on the matter.

He feels the ABC probe is under way on the Guyana thing. Nobody has

told me that, but I am sure that has to be it," he added.

In addition to Sheriff Lenhart, ABC News has also contacted The Sidney Daily News seeking information about The Way.

## Jarvis unaware

Jarvis said he is not aware of any contact with Way officials by the news service or any investigation by the Attorney General's Office, other than the tax-exempt matter, which has not yet been resolved.

"It might be that with all the business in Guyana that they might be checking," Jarvis said. "As far as I am concerned, they are quite welcome to look into anything."

Craley said Way founder Dr. Victor P. Wierwille recently put together some statements for a magazine about the trend, or "movement in government to take away the tax-exempt status of select groups."

He quoted Wierwille as stating that the "psychology behind the recent move by the media, in cooperation with the federal government, to discredit so-called 'cults' operates by means of fear."

"Our government, seeking more sources of money for spending programs, is attacking the 'cults' in an attempt to take away the tax-exempt status," Wierwille was quoted.

"Furthermore, after they succeed in taxing the so-called 'cults,' it is simply a matter of

time before they tax the larger denominational bodies."

## 'Start small'

"They dare not begin with the Roman Catholics or major Protestant groups; it is easier to 'start small' with 'cults,'" Wierwille wrote.

Craley said The Way does offer a "standard Kansas hunters' safety course" at the Emporia-based college, in cooperation with the National Guard Armory there. He said it is one of many programs offered at the college and is not mandatory but geared "simply to teach hunting safety."

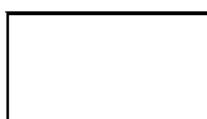
Craley also referred to a fitness training course termed LEAD (Leadership, Education, Adventure and Direction), which is an "experience in outdoor living" at an outdoor academy in Emporia.

Most students do participate, and the course is being offered nationally now, he said. The program consists of "rock climbing, backpacking and hiking," and is not mandatory, he said.

He also cited another Way related institute near Fresno, Calif., which is not run by The Way but by a Way graduate, Dr. John Somerville. Craley said Somerville operates a "fitness institute" which is an "outside mental and physical conditioning program aimed at developing positive attitudes," and is available to anyone.

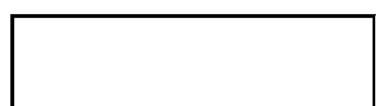
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The Virginian-Pilot, Saturday, August 4, 1979

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## Sect Told to Stop Harassments

FAIRFAX (AP)—A judge has ordered members of a religious sect not to harass a Northern Virginia family that tricked their 24-year-old daughter into leaving the cult last January and then had her deprogrammed.

The permanent restraining order, issued Thursday, is designed to stop members of The Way International from allegedly harassing the Raymond and Lois Bell family through such activities as trailing them in cars, making threatening phone calls, and prowling around their Falls Church home.

"They want my daughter back; we're frightened to death," Lois Bell told Fairfax Circuit Court Judge Burch Mullisap.

Telephone calls to a religious center operated by the group in Fairfax went unanswered Friday, and a response to the judge's order could not be obtained.

In arguing for the order, attorney Charles T. Leighton told the judge that members of The Way allegedly practiced mind-bending techniques, starvation treatment, and maintained armed training camps.

The Bells' daughter, Sharon, also told the judge that regular doses of "drug treated Kool-Aid" were distributed at gatherings of Way members.

Miss Bell testified she had been instructed in the use of weaponry and allegedly told by other members that it might be necessary to kill anyone who tried to leave the group. The Way claims to have 100,000 members worldwide, she said.

During the hearing, Miss Bell described having to live on three hours of sleep a night, eating a diet that

consisted only of rice and potatoes, and of her fear of trying to leave the cult even though she wanted to.

"I was instructed that half of what I earned had to go to the cause. I was told that my parents and everyone outside of the cult were Satanic," she said.

Miss Bell said she finally left a Way camp in Laredo, Tex., in January only after her father tricked her by calling to say that he needed eye surgery that could leave him blind and she was needed at home.

She decided to make the trip, despite opposition from the cult's leaders.

The slightly built woman, describing her departure from Laredo, testified she had to wear a wig to conceal herself and that she knew she was being followed on the way to the Houston Airport, 300 miles away.

She said she joined the group in Charlotte, N.C., not long after graduating from Purdue University in 1977. She later became qualified as a Way teacher, known as "Word of the World."

Miss Bell said the sect is based in Knoxville, Ohio.

Raymond Bell testified Thursday that his daughter had changed from "bubbly and warm to completely spaced out" after being with the religious group for six months.

After she returned home, Ms. Bell said her parents arranged 18 days of deprogramming for her.

"I'm relieved about the injunction, but I don't think it will stop the cult from trying to get my daughter if they really want her," Lois Bell said after the order was issued.

\* Our Underlines

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS FROM THE MARCH 24, 1976 ISSUE OF "THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC"  
NEWSPAPER, BY CATHERINE HAVEN

## FREED FROM CULT'S CONTROL, SHE FINDS 'THE WAY' NOT GOD'S WAY AT ALL

Karen Czarnecki's decision to dedicate her life to God should have made her parents very happy.....It didn't. Instead, the Detroit girl's 22 months as a member of the religious cult, The Way International, led to separation and heartbreak, estrangement from family and friends, and finally to a grueling three-and-a-half day deprogramming session where Karen sought to regain control of her reasoning.

Karen, now 21, grew up on Detroit's eastside in the Seven Mile and Van Dyke area. She attended Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish Grade School and later Dominican High. There she was a B-C student, who participated in the orchestra and musical productions.

Following graduation, she attended Macomb Community College where one day, as she puts it, she "was in the wrong place at the right time."

"In February 1974, I was in the student union," she recalled, "when some members came up to me. They told me about their Bible fellowships where people came together to read and study the Bible. I was going to Mass every week but I wanted more of the Bible, and there weren't any studies at my parish. These people seemed friendly, so after a week I decided to go."

At the "Twig Fellowship" (a tree analogy describes the cult's structure), Karen was impressed by the people's warmth and knowledge of the Bible.

"I figured everything would be fine," she said. "I would continue to come once a week and still go to Mass."

Meetings were held in private homes or classrooms, including Mercy College, where students who belonged to The Way managed to procure empty rooms. Despite warnings from her friends, Karen was coming more under the group's influence and began going to daily fellowships. "They seemed so absolutely sure of going to heaven," she explained, "and they quoted the Acts that 'believers should fellowship daily' and the need to 'do our best for God.' 'Naturally you want to do your best for God, and since they knew the Bible so much better than I, I decided they must be right.' In order 'to learn God's word as I had never learned it before,' Karen signed up for a "Power for Abundant Living" class, at a cost of \$85.

The three-week course consisted of listening to 33 hours of tapes. Note-taking was not allowed and questions were answered only at the end of the session ...provided you could remember them.

In June 1974, a member from the state headquarters in Greenville, Mich., visited Karen at her home and they went for an hour's walk. They talked about how bad a state the world was in with its violence and corruptness, and how only God's word would heal the world. "At the end of the walk, he turned to me and said, 'And you know, Karen, the best thing you could do for God is be a WOW (Word Over the World) ambassador for a year', she said. "by that time, I thought, 'yeah, I'll do it!'. So I signed another little piece of paper." While the signature is not legally binding, Karen admitted it was hard to break off.

"They quote Ecclesiastes about it's better not to vow than break a vow with God," she said. "I had made a commitment to God, and who wants to break a commitment with Him!"

When Karen's parents learned of her year's commitment, they tried to dissuade her. "I told them I was going because I wanted to," she said. "I told them it was as if God had said to me, 'Karen, please go and be a W.O.W. ambassador.' And I was 20 years old, so they couldn't forbid me."

Karen was sent to Texas where she was expected to hold a part-time job four or five hours a day, and then witness for eight hours. She worked a variety of low-paying jobs - waitress, chambermaid, department store clerk - and turned 15 to 20 per cent of her small salary over to The Way. The remainder of her salary paid her rent, transportation, food and other expenses. The Way contributed no financial assistance.

SOME STATEMENTS MADE BY PEOPLE WHILE IN THE "WAY MINISTRY".

"It doesn't matter why anymore. You see, you aren't happy if you know why--you're only happy if you do it."

"We can't afford to be out of fellowship for even 15-20 minutes. The adversary strikes us first as leaders! Be sharp!"

"Control your thinking to recognize your position in Christ as a Son of God."

"Be disciplined. Drive yourself. Work heartily unto the Lord."

"Get smart! Be sharp! Put word on first. You control your mind! I can control what stays in mind."

"We've got to rule our minds--we've got to put them, make them behave."

"Control your thoughts, rule them with an iron hand."

"We're disciplined--disciplined. Don't underestimate the importance of details. Class is the battleground. Preparation, discipline, and believing with conviction will win the battle."

"The rightly divided word is the only avenue for people to get so completely healed."

"First responsibility toward God is worship--speaking in tongues. Then, if we have time (and we do, don't we) so hold forth the word, teach it, read it, dream it, and love it."

"Push minuteman -- build it! America awakes!"

"Put word on solid platter. New people should know after coming to fellowship:

1. They've never heard anything like it before.
2. They can get answers.
3. The Power for Abundant Living class is the best of God's word on a silver platter."

FROM A SEMINAR ON CHRISTIAN FAMILY AND SEX

What does the tree represent? fruit of sexual relationships

What was the original sin? masturbation

What is the right and wrong of sex? how it's used

Husbands are never anything but little boys--so treat them like little boys to bring out the manliness in them

## THE "HOW" OF DOOR TO DOOR WITNESSING

1. Get a pray-paration partner.
2. Use a street map to organize your teams of two (never use 3's).
3. Hit them at prime time (anytime).
4. Remember to knock - 85% of all doorbells are broken.
5. Do not accept the first or secend or fourth "NO".
6. Rather ask, "What do you know about The Way, the Twig, the Bible Jesus Christ, Power for Abundant Living?"
7. Begin with a radiant smile and stay enthusiastic.
8. Politely excuse yourself if they are not hungry.
9. Leave everyone with a refreshing impression of the Christ in you.

The learning comes in the doing. This is no JIVE! IT WORKS!!

Remember, you are not selling anything door to door. The hungry ones will come to the Twig to register for the class.

## UNDERSHEPHERDING

Undershepherding is watching over, not taking over.

1. Show the person that you love him:
  - a. Compliment him - reinforce his good points (don't be a scripture quoter, be zealous in your building up -- not in your reproofing.)
  - b. Do little things for him.
  - c. Let them know that you are willing to help them whenever they need it (even at 3:00a.)
  - d. Be interested in that person's interests, especially his chief interests.
  - e. Just schedule your person into your life (e.g., if you are going out for a coke or coffee, call them up and take them along.)
2. Undershepherding does not stop with the class.
3. The love relationship started during the class should blossom in the days following the class.
4. Build a knowledge of the Word in your people; be appreciative of their questions and answer those that you understand well. But, do not try to explain things that you do not understand. (There are people who do understand and we can ask them.)
5. Be a faithful shepherd; see your person everyday. A shepherd in the East would not think of allowing his flock to spend a day without his presence. (Matthew 10:16)

*From They Materials*

THE LIFE OF A WOM (WORD OVER MINNESOTA) AMBASSADOR

To be an effective ambassador for Christ, you must see and know your purpose and goal:

Purpose: WOM's are sent forth to make the accuracy of God's Word available, by establishing Twi fellowships in every area and community, so that everyone (without exception) in those areas and communities has the opportunity to hear the Lord, to the point of coming into a knowledge of the truth.

Goal: Word over the World!!!

RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY

1. Your main responsibility is to be out doing the work of the ministry (walking and talking and living the Word of God) a majority of the day. Suggested minimum is 8 hours a day. (YOU MUST REMEMBER--THESE KIDS ARE ALSO HOLDING DOWN PART-TIME OR FULL TIME JOBS AS THEY HAVE TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING AND TITHE TO THE WAY MINISTRY--these comments are personal and not from The Way Ministry.)
2. You are to advise and work with the WGN family coordinator to establish Twig fellowships and run Power of Abundant Living classes.
3. You are responsible for neeting together at least once daily making the family of God a living reality.
4. You are to get a suitable job so that they will have enough income to comfortably live. Suggested minimum is 20-40 hours a week.
5. You are expected to take one day off a week.
6. You are expected to be up by 6:00 a.m. and to be in bed no later than 12:00 p.m.
7. You are responsible for staying in their assigned areas for the term of service. Any exceptions will be handled with Rev. Barry Jones.
8. Marital status of all must stay the same during the term of service.

THE WORD OF GOD SPEAKS HIGHLY OF THE FAMILY, SO WE AS THE MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE TIME TO BUILD AND ESTABLISH GOD'S WONDERFUL LOVE IN OUR HEARTS. AS MEMBERS OF YOUR WGN FAMILY, LET GOD'S LOVE BIND YOU TOGETHER IN THAT BOND OF PERFECTION. BECOME AFAMILY IN YOUR THINKING! IN YOUR BELIEVING!

IN YOUR ACTIONS! COMFORT ONE ANOTHER AND EXHORT ONE ANOTHER. WALK THE PATH OF VICTORY TOGETHER AND YOU'LL SEE INCREASE. GOD HAS PROMISED AND IS FAITHFUL TO BRING IT TO PASS. MANY PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR THE PURITY OF GOD'S LOVE AND THE TIGHTNESS OF A FAMILY. ONLY YOU CAN GIVE IT TO THEM. (Personal note--notice your family is now The Way Ministry.)

from a May 21, 1976 letter to College Believers:

The College Ambassador program for 1976-77 will involve not only College ambassadors who are students, but also Free College Ambassadors. These Free College Ambassadors will be non-students who are qualified college people and "know the ropes" of the college outreach. They will take a year to go to any college campus that the International College department requests them to go to across the U.S. They could be a campus coordinator or they could be sent as member of a family to open up a new campus. In addition, this year we will be going back to the original vision of a Way Home near a campus wherever there is college work being done on a large enough scale that we can have the believers living together as a family.

from a May 18, 1976 page entitled MISSION  
at about next fall? Do you realize if the number of College Ambassadors doubled next year, we would have 1,120 Ambassadors? If the number tripled, we would have 3,360 ambassadors. If each college ambassador signed up THREE other people, we could have 2,240 ambassadors holding forth God's Word over America's campuses. Put three people in your mind right now and include them in your vision, your believing. Moving God's Word is the most exciting activity happening in the world, and you are right in the middle of it.



THE  
WAY

# TAKE CONTROL!

To [redacted]  
Thank you for [redacted]  
you b6  
b7c

Dear Beloved Believers,

April 1980

Please allow me to illustrate a point. Upon the completion of this sentence, I want you to put this grapevine down, stand up, quickly clap your hands together five times, and then excitedly cheer "Bravo!" I mean it. Go ahead and do it. (You're three sentences late already) ..... That's it! You did it! You moved your mouth, your lips, your tongue. You moved your hands and just gave yourself a rip-roaring standing ovation for **TAKING CONTROL** of your body. See how easy it is to make your body do what you want it to do. Granted, your mind might have been thinking, "Do I look as foolish as I feel? What are people going to think?" You know what I say to that? What difference does it make!!! That's exactly what I'm trying to illustrate to you! You don't have to be controlled by other people. **YOU CAN TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE.** (You just proved it if you meekly obeyed the above polite request. If you did not obey, I'm going to give you one more chance to PROVE to yourself that you can do it. Take it from the top, and this time DO IT.)

OK, now that we have adequately illustrated that you can take control of your body, let's move on to the second element of control, the mind. From the above exercise you might have learned that your mind can tell your body what to do without the mind totally agreeing with full understanding. Maybe you stood up with hesitation, thinking that maybe I was just kidding, or that you really would look foolish, yet you went ahead and did it. But now that you see the PURPOSE of it you don't need to doubt in your mind, you can do it with boldness, taking control of your mind and taking it confess the purpose of the exercise, namely, "I can take control and do what I want to do, and I don't care what others might think." Now, again, I want you to do something. I want you, upon completion of this sentence, to repeat the above exercise, this time doing it with a smile in your heart, and with the boldness and gusto that accompanies a man that knows his purpose.

Thank you. You may be seated.

Joshua led the children of Israel into the promised land and began to take control of the land that God had promised to them, His chosen ones. The first city that they conquered was Jericho. God's instructions were simple (sort of like mine in the first paragraph): "march around the city once a day for six days, without saying or even whispering a single word. Then on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, after which the trumpeteers are to blow on their trumpets and all the people are to shout a great shout." I don't know exactly what went through the minds of those children of Israel for those seven days, but judging from their usual mental stability, I don't believe they went through the whole operation without doubting the validity of the instructions at least once or twice. Yet, because they obeyed, and did what God said to do, the Lord God gave them the victory.

In the original language, the word for Joshua and the word for Jesus are the same. It means "savior." Jesus Christ is our savior. He is the one who saved us from sin and the consequences of sin. He hath given unto us eternal victory and salvation and the means to help others receive that victorious salvation, the ministry of reconciliation. We CAN follow him to victory in our day by day lives. Why not take control

Open  
1/11/80

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST (Jesus is God)

The Way: "Jesus and God are not the same. Jesus and God were not from the beginning. Jesus Christ had a beginning that was independent, distinctly separate from God. The people who say that all things were created by Jesus Christ contradict the first verse of the Bible which says "in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." It is acceptable to call Him the Son of God, but not God the Son.

The Bible: Thomas fell down before the Lord Jesus and cried out to Him without any rebuke from Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). The Way teaches that this was just an act of oriental respect. Jesus was repeatedly worshipped and accepted it completely although He taught that only God should be worshipped (Matt. 4:10, Luke 4:8). Even God the Father commanded the angels to worship His Son (Heb.1:6). Jesus is the center of Heaven's worship (Rev., 5:6-14). Equal honor is to be given to Jesus as with the Father (John 5:23). The Father calls the Son God (Heb. 1:3, Psalm 45:6).

Exodus 3:13-15 teaches that the name of God is eternally "I AM", the self-existent one. Jesus took that title in the New Testament repeatedly (John 1:56-58) and made belief in Himself as "I AM" the test of salvation (John 3:24). Others understood that He made Himself equal with God (John 10:33).

God, The Almighty, is the Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8). He speaks as One who is coming again (Rev. 22:7). Identifies Himself again as Alpha and Omega (Rev. 22:12, 13, 16, 20) In the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God, the Alpha and Omega. God is also the First and the Last, the clear identification of Jehovah God (Isaiah 44:6). This is Likewise the title of the Lord Jesus (Rev. 1:12-18, Rev. 22:13). All attributes of God (omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, the power to forgive sins and many others), are attributed to the Lord Jesus. To affirm that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is to affirm that God took upon Himself flesh, or was manifest in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16). To deny the Person of Christ in this sense is to mark one as a deceiver and antichrist (1 John 7-11).

The name of Jesus means "God is Saviour". He is called in both Old and New Testaments Immanuel or Emmanuel meaning "God with us" (Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:23). His title is not only "Prince of Peace", but also "The Mighty God". He is indeed "God over all blessed forever" (Rom. 9:5). The New Testament word Lord (Kurios in the Greek) is used to translate the Old Testament word for Jehovah as God. It is the apostates and heretics who deny Him as Lord and God (Jude 4).

ON PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST

The Way: "Jesus came into existence at Bethlehem in Mary. He never Before existed."

The Bible: "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). Jesus spoke of being loved by the Father "before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24). His glory was something He shared with Father before the world was (John 17:5). Read also John 13:3, Coloss. 1:15-19.

WATER BAPTISM

The Way: "Water baptism was instituted by God but only for Israel and the Kingdom and for a limited time. Since the day of Pentecost we are indeed free from the Law and a part of that law was water baptism." The key text is Acts 1:4-5 "John baptized with water ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." The only baptism for Christians is that of the Holy Spirit (omitting the article since they do not recognize any such Person as the Holy Spirit). We are told that Acts 2, 8, 9, and 19 do not mention water baptism, nor does Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Phillipians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. (The only part of the Scriptures they recognize for Christians). The Way denies that Matt. 28:19, with its command of baptism was ever carried out by the apostles and denies that the expression "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" was ever included in "the original Word of God". No translations or manuscripts are cited to support this remarkable claim. Wierwille acknowledges his indebted-

ness to E. W. Bullinger ~~re~~'s ideas in this area and ~~B~~ ianism is described in older works on cults.

The Bible: There are no translations of the Bible which omit the baptismal formula of Matt. 28:19, insofar as we are able to discover. Every reference to baptism can not fairly be made to spirit baptism only. It is not true that there are no mentions of water baptism in Acts. Acts 10:47 says "can any forbid water that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Spirit as well as 'we?'" This was a difficulty for Wierwille. He said, "Why did he include water here when earlier he did not? Because earlier he spoke by revelation and inspiration; but after the day of Pentecost, the synagogue was still used, along with much of the old law, since the great revelation of the Apostle Paul had not yet been revealed. Therefore, Peter being influenced by this, simply forgot and unintentionally added water. By Acts 11:16 when Peter again mentioned baptism without adding the word water, "he got it right". This is ingenious explaining, but it is not Biblical scholarship or accuracy in the Word. It is twisting the Scripture to suit one's own fancy.

Is there really no mention of water in Acts 8:36-39 as Wierwille says? "The eunuch said, "See, here is water. What doth hinder me to be baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the Eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they both were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away."

The Scripture refers to water baptism as being "Buried with Him" (Coloss. 2:12, Rom. 6:3-5), which fits going under the water and coming up again. Spirit baptism unites us to the body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13), typifying union, not burial. There has been an unbroken practice of water baptism from the time of the Apostles to the present day. Modes have varied and interpretations of practice have varied, but baptizing with water is a 2000 year old Christian practice.

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT, PENTECOSTALISM AND TONGUES

The Way: Rejects the Person of the Holy Spirit and omits the definite article "the" in all Bible references to Him. He is simply "holy spirit" in us, not a person. Still much is made of receiving holy spirit, having power from on high and speaking in tongues as the most important manifestation of the spirit. In short, the terminology and emphasis of Pentecostalism is adopted, while the Person of the Spirit and Pentecostalism itself is rejected.

Tongues-speaking is taught to people in terms of vocal and physical instructions (as do many so-called charismatic groups). "You, not the Spirit, moves your lips, your tongue, your throat. You formulate the words...Open your mouth wide and breathe in. You are not going to receive any more spiritually within. You are going to manifest something out. When you have finished a word, speak another word. Do not pay any attention to what you are saying. You are magnifying God no matter what the words sound like." One does not have to worry about things like interpretation either. Since it is done in private, it need never be interpreted, says The Way.

The Bible: The spirit is a Person, Jesus spoke of Him as such (John 14:16 17,26, 15:7-8, 13-14, plus many other verses). He is referred to as God (Acts 5:3-4), possesses all the attributes of God. Tongues were a supernatural visitation by God, given spontaneously through the Spirit, and requiring absolutely no such instructions as mentioned above. There is not a line in the Bible of the directive nonsense written above, which amounts to outright religious quackery. The Way has taken from Pentecostalism its most appealing doctrines in terms of acting followers, oriented to experience, and then rejected both the Spirit of God and the movement itself which has built its entire following around tongues. The Way is a religion of picking and choosing doctrines from diverse sourced and passing them off as original Biblical research to people who are not well taught in the Scriptures.

#### GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The Way: All nine manifestations of the Spirit, including healing, working miracles, prophecy, and others are latent in every Christian. All he

needs to do is "operate them" by faith (based on their interpretation of ICor.12). Verse 11 of this chapter is made to teach that these operations of the Spirit are "to every man as he (the man) wills". We decide by faith. The Spirit does not distribute according to His mind. "To another" simply means "another gift", not to another Christian something differing. No attention is paid at all to the figure of the human body with its various parts variously contributing to the whole, which is the point of the whole illustration. Thus any Christian can exercise any spiritual gift simply by making up his own mind to do so and begin doing it (with a little help from someone from The Way). This is a highly tantalizing prospect to many persons and almost an aspect of "self-realization", as its called in modern thought.

The Bible: The subject of the passage is the Holy Spirit and special abilities which He gives for His service. The Way denies there is any such Person as the Holy Spirit (as do most other cults). These gifts vary among Christians (as also says Romans 12:6). Christians have differing gifts or varieties of gifts. Thus they should not exalt themselves above one another or think one is superior to another as vs. 15-22 teach in ICor. 12. God sets those parts in the body as it pleases God, not man (vs.18, 24). All do not have the same gift (vs. 29?) Wierwille seeks to evade this by differentiating "gift ministries" from "manifestations". Yet healings, miracles, and tongues appear in more than one list. The basic word for gift is "charisma" from which we get the word "charismatic". All Christians are charismatic (have gifts but not all have the same gift ICor.7:7)

#### ON THE SCRIPTURES

The Way: Understanding the Scripture is by a certain method of Bible Study called "rightly dividing the Word." By dividing up the Word, it teaches that the Gospels are for Israel only. The epistles are for us, especially the prison epistles. It is particularly important to hear what Wierwille says because he is quoted as claiming to be "the greatest teacher since the time of the apostles and that he teaches by Revelation." That is certainly in the spirit of Joseph Smith of the Mormons and many other cult leaders. If it is by revelation, than of course his teachings are on the same level as the Word of God and are to be received in the same way.

The Bible: II Timothy 3:16 says "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness". No where are we taught that only part of the Scripture is for Christians. Moreover, to either add or subtract from this Scripture by teaching is to bring us under the judgment of God (Rev. 22:19-20).

#### SCHOLARSHIP, RESEARCH AND LEARNING OF LEADERS

The Way: V.P. Wierwille is a great scholar, having studied under many great teachers and taken the best of their knowledge. He has attended many seminaries and has great knowledge of the original Biblical languages which enable him to work the Word in a unique way. Members of his staff are said to be learned in the Greek and Hebrew languages beyond that of ordinary men. Their translations and insights are therefore superior. They can teach their followers these languages and techniques so that they will be superior students and "researchers".

Response: No record is given on "The Way" literature of Wierwille's seminaries, degrees, academic attainments, nor of the teachers under whom he sat. No listing is given of his staff in terms of their academic background or linguistic preparation. The leader is an ex-Congregational minister who has attended a number of schools but has no theological standing whatsoever in the Christian world. He has never had anything accepted for publication by any recognized evangelical publishing concern on any subject, let alone the matter of translations, manuscripts, Biblical language or Biblical teaching. His own perverted teachings are at variance with established Christian doctrine and the leaders are careful to conceal this when they attempt to infiltrate other Christian groups and lead people into their movement.

CONDUCT, CONFESSING AND FORSAKING SIN, DEFILING HABITS

The Way: Christ has died and paid for all our sins. We are free and that freedom is not only from the guilt and penalty of sin but freedom to do whatever we feel is acceptable conduct. It is not necessary to confess our sins to God since He has already forgiven them. We are free to continue any habits we have, or to indulge in various fleshly practices.

The Bible: Christ has paid for our sins on the Cross but His work on the Cross is not a license to live as we please (Gal. 5:13). Sinful and defiling practices mark one as having no inheritance in the Kingdom of God and wrath is upon those who teach such license (Ephes. 5:3-6). We are to be separate from the world (II Cor. 6:17) and love it not. (I John 2:15-16). We are to confess our sins (I John 1:9), if we are to maintain our fellowship with God. We are called to holiness, purity of life, body and word. Unless we confess and forsake our sins we shall not prosper (Psalm 38:13). We must acknowledge our sins and be sorry for them or the Lord will not hear our prayers (Psalm 32:5, 38:18, 66:18). Any teaching which condones continuance in defiling, fleshly practices and denies the necessity of confession on the ground of Christ's finished work has perverted the gospel and the Word of God. Foul speech, use of drugs, sexual relations outside of marriage, hypocrisy of pretended love and pretended spirituality...have no place in the life of a Christian. If we practice these things we have never been born again. (I John 3:4-9).

JESUS AND THE JEWS

The Way: Jesus was not a Jew but a Judean. The word Jew did not come into existence until 1775. Prior to this year the word Jew did not exist in any language. The first reference to it in the 18th century in the New Testament is simply a matter of later editions of 14th century translations. Jesus did not practice the form of religious worship practiced in Judea in His life. The Jews of eastern Europe did not descend from these people who once inhabited Palestine. These descended from the Khazars in the seventh century converted to being Jews but who now refer to themselves as being Yiddish.

The Bible: The word Jew occurs 32 times in the regular versions of the Bible, particularly in the book of Esther in the Old Testament and in Romans and Acts frequently. The woman at the well in John 4:9 so recognized the Lord Jesus. In addition, Shakespeare wrote long before 1775 and had a character in the Merchant of Venice called Shylock a Jew. Josephus, the greatest of Jewish historians writing in the immediate period of Jesus, wrote a book called the Wars of the Jews, and used the term repeatedly. It abounds in ancient literature. The statements by Wicrill are unbelievably bizarre and are remote from "research". Jesus differed with the Pharisees of his days but regularly attended the synagogue services, observed the Passover and major feast days and did other things associated with the spiritual life of one obedient to the Jewish faith. This is easily observed in the four gospels. The history of Jewish origins in eastern Europe is debatable at best and not relevant to people's spiritual needs today in any event.

ON SICKNESS

The Way: "The next time you get sick you say, "Look here, headache, cold or whatever it may be, you have no power over me, you were defeated 1900 years ago. It says so in the Word, and I believe the Word, therefore get thee behind me." (Based on Coloss. 1:13-14 and "being delivered from the power of darkness". Booklet titled The Unqualified Commitment).

The Bible: Was this the advice of Paul to Timothy in I Timothy 5:23? Did Paul repeat that formula to Trophimus when he left him sick at Miletus in II Timothy 4:20? Is there no place for God to give grace to us in place of desired healing if its for His glory (II Corinthians 12:7-9)? We are told to pray for the sick and many times God can and does raise them up when that is His will. But how can we say on the basis of God's Word that such is always His will?

GOING TO HEAVEN AFTER DEATH

The Way: "When you are dead, you are dead. There is none in Heaven now but Christ." This is the familiar doctrine of "soul sleep".

The Bible: II Corinthians 5:6-8 teaches that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord which is far better." Elijah is not dead. Moses is not dead. (Matt. 17:3; Mark 9:4.)

VARIOUS PECULIAR DOCTRINES

1. "In the day Jesus Christ died", Wierwille makes much of the fact that "Good Friday" was not the day Christ was crucified. He makes a big point of saying "it is a serious matter to propagate error when we know the truth". He believes that the crucifixion occurred on Wednesday. The big emphasis with The Way converts is made to show them how much the regular church and its leaders have deceived them. By contrast The Way is shown to be honest and "scholarly". Of course, many Christians do not believe that Jesus died on Friday, mainly due to John 19:31 which would indicate that the Sabbath in question was other than a regular sabbath. However, they do not believe that these other convictions are "propagating error" while knowing the truth. In fact, the day that Christ died should be no subject of division among true Christians at all.

2. Another typical Wierwille emphasis is that Christ did not die between two thieves, but there were "four", two of them thieves and two of them malefactors, trading on the two different words used in the Bible. It is plain that Jesus died between two men, not four, "one on either side and Jesus in the midst" (John 19:18), but even if it were not so, only a man seeking to make points with his followers would emphasize such a point to attract followers by posing as a great revealer of new truth.

SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU ON THE GROUP KNOWN AS:

THE WAY or

THE WAY INTERNATIONAL

The founder of the Way Biblical Research Center is Victor Paul Wierville.

The introduction class offered by The Way is called PFAL — Power For Abundant Living.

Headquarters is the family homestead in west central Ohio—New Knoxville.

The organizational structure is a tree. The roots are headquarters. Each statewide unit is a limb. City units or area units are branches. The household fellowship groups are called twigs.

Young men and women give a year and sometimes several years of their lives witnessing, teaching, learning, and recruiting new members. This is all done without pay. The young people must meet all of their own expenses.

Each class that you take requires a "donation." You must donate a certain amount of money before you can participate in the lectures.

The Way has a college in Emporia, Kansas. It recently bought a Roman Catholic institution in New Rome, Indiana.

Wierville claims to have received a revelation from God in the fall of 1942. At that time he was having problems and doubts. He prayed to God that "He could have the whole thing, unless there were real, genuine answers." At that time, God spoke to him audibly, so Wierville says, and told Wierville that He (God) would reveal the Word as it had not been taught since the first century if Wierville would teach it to others.

Victor Paul Wierville has written a book, "Jesus Christ Is Not God."

At the end of the Power For Abundant Living Course, you are taught to speak in tongues. SIT this is called. You must have this for the external manifestation of the new spirit.

Did you know that The Way is actively working to spread their "rightly divided Word of God" as taught by Victor Paul Wierville—IN EVERY TOWN IN THE UNITED STATES WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 5,000?

The Way does not use the symbol of the cross. They are told that the symbol of the cross is a symbol of death.

The Way teaches that Peter denied Jesus Christ six times and not three. How do they arrive at this? Victor Paul Wierville says that the King James Version of the Bible is wrong. It says there: before the cock crows twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. That is wrong. He (Victor Paul Wierville) says that it is supposed to read: before the cock crows twice thou shalt deny me thrice. Victor Paul Wierville says that everyone knows that two times three is six.

The Way says that it is not a church. It is not a religion. They say they are only a biblical research and study ministry. However, they condemn the churches and ministers of today saying they have no power.

While In The Way, if you take enough classes...you will learn to heal and perform miracles.

Be careful of their loaded language. The same words that they use that you are familiar with....don't mean the same thing to them. Jesus is only the son of God to them. To Way believers Jesus is not God. Be careful...you are not talking the same language.

The Way says that they do not have a membership. However, all signs point differently to that claim.

The Way claims that they are Christian. However, that is not true. The Way borrows from several sources for its doctrines but combines them in a patchwork to form a specialized group of doctrines which, taken as a whole, are held by no other Christian group.

The Way does not use the Lord's Prayer. They do not use the Apostles' Creed. They say that the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) have not much meaning for us today. They are written for the Jews only.

The epistles of Paul are the most important part of the Bible for the instruction of Christians. Anything that you want to base your life on according to The Way is found in the book of Ephesians.

The Way denies Jesus is God. The Way denies that the Holy Spirit is a person.

The Way denies water Baptism for Christians.

The Way denies that Jesus was a Jew.

The Way says that the only translation to use is the King James. And Victor Paul Wierwille sometimes says that that translation is wrong. He says that The Living Bible is the way of death.

The Way says that each believer can operate all the manifestations of the Spirit as found in I Corinthian 12. The Way says that all people have these gifts. Victor Paul Wierwille can show you how to manifest or operate them in your lives.

The Way denies that sickness is a part of the will of God. In fact the only reason you would be sick would be because your faith was low. Victor Paul Wierwille tells his followers that they do not need health insurance.

The Way denies the Trinity.

The Scriptures must be understood by people only in light of the way Victor Paul Wierwille "rightly divides the Word of God."

The Way says that you do not need to confess your sins. When Christ died he paid for all sins, past, present and future. Believers of The Way are free from the guilt and penalty of sin and free to do whatever they feel is acceptable conduct.

The Way claims to bring families together, when in fact they divide them. If the family goes along with the new-found truths of a Way believer, everything is fine. However, the Way believers are told not to argue. They will say the "truth needs no defense," "take the class and then you will see." They are not to get into debates or negative thoughts. The Way believer will not discuss all of the teachings of The Way with you before you take the class.

More and more people are becoming aware of The Way and it's tactics. Be prepared to inform the public of this group.

MEASDAY - 11/30/78 Statement by John Clark, M.D. a psychiatrist on the staff of Mass. General Hospital in Boston, where he is working on a cult project.

(Regarding statements of a Mental Health team sent to investigate physical and mental turmoil caused residents in a small town in West Va., following a devastating flood):  
"...But variations of this scenario are to be seen after nearly any middle-sized major catastrophe, to a degree that would suggest that it is not the painful human experience of tragedy that is important, but the scientists' chance to be certified, publicized "experts" - who may also be improving their chances of qualifying for grants.

But these disasters are not simple academic matters and are often far less trivial than one might judge from the short attention span of the reading and viewing public. These experts may, by explaining away the un-understandable, be contributing to that short attention span in a way that is quite malign.

In the case of the Guyana horror especially, there are too many explanations by too many experts who have made little more than a quick study of the news, and of the cults, before offering their formulations to an eager public. Almost all of them tend subtly, or in some cases blatantly, to ease the public's sense of alarm by blaming the victims themselves - when in fact the blame ought to be laid to those, such as Jim Jones, who bring such cults into being. One historian in recent days has even permitted himself to be quoted in the press to the effect that none of this need have happened if only Rep. Leo Ryan, whose investigation of Jonestown, precipitated the mass suicide, had stayed home and not referred."

THE REAL MYSTERY, to me, is that so many educated people can express shock and disbelief that a so-called religious organization could be so bloody, that its leader could have attained the power of Jehovah over life and death.

PERHAPS THE PUBLIC WOULD BE MORE SHOCKED if they fully realized that their only access to information on cults such as Jones' has been strictly limited by the absolute interpretation of the freedom of religion clause of the First Amendment, which inhibits the study of any organization calling itself a religion and which, mistakenly, abridges criticism of its practices.

As a result, our supposedly free society is expected to put its absolute trust in the veracity and good will of cults whose existence is justified by a radical opposition to their surrounding culture.

The fact that Jones' cult has become one of the greatest disasters of the century has strengthened general suspicion that there is something to fear in the rapidly growing cult phenomenon today. If we are to learn if those fears are justified, then the real experts must be heard. And they are the victims of various cult groups themselves - those who have left these groups and the parents who have suffered for their children, seeing them naimed while the authorities turned their backs. WITHOUT THIS EXPERT TESTIMONY, THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE AVERAGE AMERICAN'S IMAGINATION CAN CONJURE UP THE VISION OF A HEALTHY, ADVANCING PERSONALITY CATASTROPHICALLY ALTERED IN A MATTER OF DAYS OR WEEKS - OFTEN CONVERTED BEFORE LEARNING THE NAME OF THE CULT AND ITS LEADER OR LEARNING OF ITS SPECIAL DOCTRINE.

Such changes are easily effected by determined cultists, may be lasting and highly detrimental, and may affect even apparently stable individuals.

While a great many converts that I have studied suffered emotional troubles during their earlier years and have led disordered lives, another large group, about 40%, had NEVER DEMONSTRATED ANY SIGNS OF MENTAL ILLNESS. Some came from disturbed families; others did not. Some were unchurched or non-religious; others were well indoctrinated with their parents' faiths. Though recruitment has tended to focus on the middle to upper middle social-economic classes, some, as in the Jones cult, set their sights on the deprived.

Some political-terrorist groups are known to have practiced similar conversion tactics. It is not only late adolescents that were involved; indeed, recruits have ranged from the pre-teens through those in their 30s and older.

While it is not totally necessary for a living cult leader to believe in his own doctrines, it is likely that the sense of power over others, gained from the sudden conversions, eventually will convert the converter, thus increasing his own sense of invaluable and omnipotence.

From all this comes the conclusion THAT THE CAPACITY FOR SUDDEN CHANGE UNDER CERTAIN KINDS OF PRESSURE IS A PART OF VIRTUALLY ALL OF US. It is essential to the unbelievable, even miraculous, adaptability of the human being to varied and changing environments.

SO THE BLAME CAN NOT BE LAID ON THE VICTIM. It must instead belong to those absolutist-totalitarian organizations practicing sudden conversions within controlled environments, and which can sustain those changes long enough to set them permanently.

When Joseph Conrad's "The Heart of Darkness" is repeatedly invoked by one commentator after another, as it has been in the aftermath of Jonestown, one begins to suspect that the purported experts are reading one another's copy. They would serve the readers better by reminding them that the Manson massacre occurred in the heart of Hollywood, and the Hitler cult religiously murdered its tainted minorities in a most civilized northern continent.

Psychiatrists and psychologists have especially disappointed those families affected by cult groups by refusing to be involved if there is a hint of the least risk to their livelihoods or a challenge to the ways they have conceptualized personality in all of their work.\*\*

Even after the Guyana disaster, some are publicly reassuring everyone that the kids are just passing through another phase. United Press reported that a poll of the nation's psychiatrists revealed a general opinion that "First they lost their wills, then they lost their lives." And a senior official of the National Institute of Mental Health has declared that, far from there being any question of "brainwashing" what we are really seeing is just another brand of very high pressure salesmanship.

That is the ultimate trivialization - and a tragic one.

THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY FATALITIES FROM UNTREATED ILLNESSES, SUICIDES AND EVEN MURDERS BY THESE CULTS, RELIGIOUS OR NOT, HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR YEARS - but not to our officials who have not wished to see. Psychoses have too often resulted from both conversion to and deconversion from such cults, and from the sheer bizarreness of day-to-day cult life.

And a subtle but mounting damage to the fabric of our pluralistic society, as it attempts to cope tolerantly with its growing and intolerant parasites, is becoming more and more apparent.

Only a recognition of the real dangers that such cults present, and honest reporting to an appropriately aroused public, will allow us to begin to repair this fabric.

\*\*(Editors note) This statement, except for a few exceptions, could equally apply to clergymen, politicians and the media.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Wed., 10/27/82

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIMCharacter: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPIN:  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Missing boy's mother enlists Branstad's help

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Noreen Gosch enlisted the help of Terry Branstad in finding her missing son during a chance meeting with the candidate for governor in a West Des Moines office building Tuesday.

JOHN  
GOSCH

Gosch was waiting for an elevator in the West Towers Office Building, 1200 Thirty-fifth St., to go to her office at the Economics Laboratory where she is a district secretary, when she met Branstad.

"He said, 'Hi, I'm Terry Branstad,' and I said, 'Hi, I'm Noreen Gosch, the mother of the missing West Des Moines newspaper boy.'

"I asked him what he could do to help me. And he said he didn't know."

Gosch asked that Branstad make telephone calls to the authorities "to see what they're really doing to stay on the case."

**She said Branstad answered, "I will do what I can," and requested that an aide allot time in today's schedule to make phone calls.**

Branstad said later, "I said I would check into it. I was out campaigning this morning and happened to run into her. I said sure, I will be glad to. We are in the process of getting a report to see if more can be done to help."

Gosch said she rode up the elevator with Branstad, "who was very gracious, very nice."

Has the Republican won her vote?

"I've not had time to consider what the election is all about. Whoever helps us will get my vote on anything. They'll have a friend for life," she said.

Her 12-year-old son, John, disappeared Sept. 5 as he began his West Des Moines route to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register.

Police have been unable to find any trace of the youngster.

7F-1023-66  
Oct 23 1982  
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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Tues., 10/26/82

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Gosch case 'mystery man' described

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A mystery man being sought by police may help them fit an important piece into the puzzle of what happened to 12-year-old newspaper carrier John Gosch.

JOHN  
GOSCH

The man was driving a dark blue car with Warren County license plates in the West Des Moines neighborhood from which Gosch vanished about 6 a.m. Sept. 5.

It was about sunup, and the man was seen by at least three persons, including Gosch, another carrier boy and the parent of a third carrier boy, police say.

He had stopped near Ashworth Road and Thirty-ninth Street in West Des Moines to ask how to get to Eighty-sixth Street in Clive, about a mile north of there.

There had been conflicting descriptions of the man whose car was believed to have had Warren County license plates, said West Des Moines Police Lt. Ray Fidler.

Now, after re-interviewing the witnesses and combining some details, Fidler said a "reasonable" description is possible.

The man, police say, is in his mid-30s, weighs about 200 pounds, has dark hair over his ears, deep-set eyes and a dark complexion. The interior of his car was described as "plush."

Fidler said that after directions were given, the man drove onto Thirty-ninth Street, near Valley High School, and headed north "at a high rate of speed." Thirty-ninth is not a through street north, but Thirty-fifth Street is.

He said that investigators went to the Clive neighborhood later and covered a mile in each direction, interviewing residents in an effort to find the man.

Fidler said the mystery man may help provide more information about a second car seen in the area; one Fidler says is "more suspicious."

"It's a shot in the dark but we want to talk to him. Maybe he saw the other car."

That car was seen some four blocks to the west minutes later. It is described as a silver late-model Ford Fairmont with a wide black stripe along the side or the bottom.

Fidler said the second car was on Marcourt Lane near Forty-second in West Des Moines about the time Gosch was to begin delivering his newspapers.

He said a witness, looking from a second-floor window in a nearby house, saw the silver car. It was on the same side of the street where Gosch's wagon loaded with newspapers was found.

According to the witness, Fidler said, the car blocked the view of the wagon. The car rolled up to the stop sign, made a left turn north on Forty-second, a through street, and disappeared.

The wagon remained on the sidewalk, Fidler said, but Gosch's small dog accompanying him was gone. When the youngster's parents awoke at their home at 1004 Forty-fifth Street, the dog had returned home.

Fidler said the witness was unable to determine if there was one or more persons in the silver car.

Investigators have been unable to find either of the cars.

Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Division of Criminal Investigation, said investigators have uncovered about 5,000 of the silver cars in the state.

"I don't know why we've been unable to find either of the drivers. Maybe they are involved and maybe they were there for a purpose they don't want to disclose."

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7A-1053-67

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8M

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Fri., 11/5/82

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIMCharacter: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Gosch search is publicized

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Some 1,100 daily newspapers throughout the United States and Canada are being asked to publish a picture and brief description of John David Gosch, the 12-year-old Des Moines newspaper carrier who vanished Sept. 5.

The Des Moines Register today began mailing them public service announcements in the hope that newspaper readers may have some information.

"Have you seen this young man?" the announcements ask. Below a picture of the youngster is a description of him and the phone numbers of Child Find Inc. and the West Des Moines Police Department.

In an accompanying letter, Register Publisher Gary G. Gerlach pleads, "One of our young carriers is missing and we need your help."

Gosch was preparing to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register when he disappeared in West Des Moines a few blocks from his home.

Gerlach tells how thousands have joined in the search, that the youngster's parents have appeared on national television asking for help in finding their son, and how rewards totaling more than \$30,000 have been offered for information leading to his whereabouts.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4B

Des Moines Sunday Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 10/31/82

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# No clues found in search for boy

By BETH KURYLO

Register Staff Writer

A search Saturday morning along Walnut Creek in Des Moines' northwestern suburbs ended with no new clues about the Sept. 5 disappearance of 12-year-old John Gosch.

About 70 volunteers combed an area between University Avenue and Hickman Road south of Living History Farms, concentrating their efforts on heavy brush along the creek banks.

"We had to check it out," said the missing boy's father, John Gosch. He said two psychics — one from Winterset, the other from Minnesota — this week provided similar descriptions of where his son's body might be.

The Minnesota psychic described an area near the Gosch home marked by silos, two churches, water towers, an interstate highway and a creek. She said he would be by a log under

a heavy leaf cover," Gosch said.

The description matched the area searched Saturday, which is within a mile of the Gosch home at 1004 Forty-fifth St., West Des Moines.

"I hope they find a clue," said Gosch during the search. "But I don't hope they find his body."

The boy's mother, Noreen Gosch, stayed home addressing and mailing posters containing pictures of the boy and information about his disappearance.

John Gosch said a Teamster's Union representative offered to give the posters to truck drivers for nationwide distribution.

Many of the volunteers Saturday didn't know the Gosches, but said they were helping because they were concerned about the boy. "I've been following the story and I just decided to come and help look for him," said

Ronald Mesenbrink, 33, of 7350 N.W. Sixteenth St., Ankeny.

John Gosch said one of the psychics told him the case would be "all wrapped up by Nov. 2." He said he remains convinced his son didn't run away from home but was forcefully taken.

A \$25,000 reward for the boy's safe return and an \$8,000 reward for information leading to his whereabouts still are being offered.

Gosch said volunteers again will be addressing and mailing posters at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Valley High School in West Des Moines.

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# Gosches: Police not cooperating with us

By TOM ALEX

Associated Press Writers

Parents of John Gosch, the missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier, say that two days before their son disappeared he spent some time talking to a police officer at Valley Stadium in West Des Moines.

In fact, on the way home that night young John Gosch said he might want to become a police officer when he grew up, the parents say.

The Gosches say the man who talked to their son Sept. 3 resembles a man seen talking to their son the morning he disappeared. But they say West Des Moines police have not cooperated in their efforts to identify the officer.

The missing boy's parents, John and Noreen Gosch, said in a letter to The Des Moines Register: "We have been fighting trying to get the police to get the names of the men that were on duty that night and they said they couldn't — that it wasn't that important. Well, it is important because this man bears a resemblance to the composite" sketch of the

last person John Gosch was seen talking to.

West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney said he did not know the Gosches had been having a problem getting to see photos of the men. "There were a total of 10 officers working the game that night," said Cooney. "They have seen all but two of them and we are going to get Polaroids of those two."

Relations between the Gosches and police have been strained at times during the investigation. The Gosches continued their criticism of the police in the letter, saying the police investigation of their son's disappearance Sept. 5 as he prepared to deliver his newspapers leaves "a lot to be desired."

West Des Moines police "still do not have a set of fingerprints of our son for identification purposes," says the letter. "Nor hair samples etc. Our private detective did this immediately when he came on the case."

"Over half of our son's customers



on the paper route were never interviewed. Our private detective did this immediately," Noreen Gosch added that police still have not released the composite drawing of the man who was seen talking to young John the morning he disappeared.

Cooney said police had gone through the boy's room, but he said he didn't know if fingerprints had been lifted. "At this point fingerprints are not important to the investigation," the chief said.

He added that he did not know how

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1M and 7M

Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: November 9, 1982

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

many people had been interviewed by investigators, "but I do know they interviewed an awful lot of people up there."

Police have differing sketches from two witnesses of the man last seen with the boy. He said police have not released the sketches because, "if it's inaccurate, I hate like heck to release it."

Asked how he responded to the criticism, Cooney said: "I'd probably be saying and doing just what they are if I were them. I'd want to keep the pressure on, too. But we're doing everything we can."

Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said the Gosches' criticism of the West Des Moines police "is unfortunate. They are working hard on this case. They are as frustrated as anybody" about the lack of information.

**GOSCH**  
Please turn to Page A

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - OMAHA	

1982

JAN

# Letter: Gosches get 'extreme criticism'

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page One*  
tion leading to the missing boy's whereabouts.

Much of Noreen Gosch's dissatisfaction seems to be that authorities will not open all of their investigative files to her, Shanahan said. "She's becoming very difficult to work with. A lot of the allegations she is making are just not true. We've bent over backwards to keep her informed of our progress. But we've reached a point where we just can't discuss some things with her," Shanahan said.

By state law some information gathered in an investigation cannot be revealed to any civilian and can be shared only by law enforcement agencies, Shanahan said.

The DCI director said he met with Gov. Robert Ray about the case after Noreen Gosch called the governor Friday. "The governor and I met and reviewed the case. He is satisfied that we are doing everything we can," Shanahan said.

He said he showed Ray a report he had submitted earlier to Governor-elect Terry Branstad. That report summarized the investigation, which Shanahan said has been extensive, even though it has been fruitless.

His report says actions taken by the seven DCI agents and five West Des Moines police detectives assigned to the case include:

- Conducting 371 interviews with neighbors, relatives, students, teachers, runaway center staff, possible suspects and associates of the missing boy.

- Using the services of the FBI, the Polk County attorney's office, the Iowa State Patrol, the Des Moines Police Department and all western suburb police agencies, and sending information about the case to state and local law enforcement authorities across the country.

- Asking that the FBI distribute pictures of the missing boy and facts of the case to all its 59 field offices.

throughout the nation and requesting that agents pay special attention to cults, religious organizations and pornography rings.

- Checking over 5,000 suspect vehicles in the state of Iowa matching the description of two cars seen in the area the morning of the boy's disappearance.

- Entering the boy's name into the National Crime Information Computer used by police across the country.

- Hypnotizing all witnesses identified as having seen the victim on the morning he disappeared.

- Installing a law enforcement recorder on the telephone at the Gosch residence.

- Investigating tips from various psychics.

- Receiving and checking over 500 leads that came from calls to West Des Moines police or the DCI.

In her letter to The Register, Noreen Gosch also discussed "the extreme criticism which was directed towards my husband and myself — simply because we have tried to keep our composure while on camera."

"During the early weeks of the investigation there were many questions and decisions to be made. It would be impossible to function if we were hysterical all of the time. . . .

Also, we felt that if young John was in any way near a television set and was able to see us that we did not want him to see parents flying apart but rather — words of encouragement and hope for him. And a message that we were doing everything we possibly could do to find him. . . .

"I am afraid that even our police department, in their inexperience of a case of this nature, didn't understand our trying to remain strong."

(Indicate page, name of  
newspaper, city and state.)**THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL**  
**MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

Date: 11/17/82 PAGE A4

Edition:

Title: Unsub:  
John David Gosch - VictimCharacter:  
or Possible Kidnapping

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS



John Gosch

## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS YOUNG MAN?

John Gosch disappeared Sunday, Sept. 5, while delivering newspapers in West Des Moines, Iowa. He is 12 years old, 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighs 140 pounds and has blue eyes and light brown hair. Rewards totaling more than \$30,000 are being offered by The Des Moines Register and friends and business associates of the family. If you have any information, contact Child Find, 1-800-431-5005, or the West Des Moines, Iowa, Police 515-223-3211.

Wed Nov 17 1982  
COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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7A-1053-88

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 22 1982	

# An overview of the Dental ID Program

*California DOJ is administering a program to assist law enforcement agencies and coroners throughout the western U.S.*

Skeletal remains are unearthed in a desert. A woman's body is washed up on shore. The mutilated and scorched body of a man is found in a vacant field. Many times in cases such as these, the identity of the body is never known. To enhance the probability of identification, California implemented the first statewide Dental Identification Program in the United States in 1979. The program, which is administered by the California Department of Justice (DOJ), assists law enforcement agencies and coroners in identifying unidentified deceased persons by comparing their dental charts with the charts of persons reported missing by law enforcement agencies throughout the western United States. For example:

On February 25, 1979, the San Diego County Coroner's Office was notified of an unidentified deceased person who was a victim of the "Freeway Killer" in Southern California. The dental charts of this homicide victim were submitted to the DOJ Dental Identification Program for comparison against the dental charts of missing persons. The search resulted in a possible match with records of an individual reported missing by Milpitas Police Department, which is 450 miles north of San Diego. The deceased person was positively identified by the San Diego County Coroner's Office as the missing person from Milpitas.

On January 25, 1981, the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office was notified that two human legs had been found. A female torso, with head, legs, and hands severed, was discovered on January 28, 30 miles from the location of the legs. The hands were not located, but the head was eventually found a month later, 200 feet from where the legs were found.

A forensic anthropologist confirmed that all body parts were from the same victim. The dental chart of the victim was submitted to the Dental Identification Program. A search of program files resulted in a probable match with dental records of an individual reported missing by Santa Ana Police Department in Orange County, which is southwest of San Bernardino County. The deceased person was positively identified by the San Bernardino County Coroner's Office as the missing person from Orange County.

On October 27, 1981, the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office located skeletal remains in a wooded area. The skeletal remains consisted of a spinal column, right foot, and miscellaneous bones. The skull was not recovered and was thought to have been carried off by animals. However, one tooth with a porcelain crown restoration was recovered at the scene. The tooth was submitted to the Dental Identification Program and determined to be a central incisor. A search resulted in a probable match with dental records of an individual reported missing by Fairfield Police Department in Solano County, which is approximately 200 miles northwest of Tuolumne County. The deceased person was positively identified by a forensic odontologist as the missing person from Solano County. There have been no other known cases in the United States where an identity was determined using one tooth.

The idea for the California program was initiated by two San Diego dentists, Dr. Norman "Skip" Sperber and Dr. Robert Siegal, who specialize in forensic odontology—the scientific study of teeth.

7A-1053-90

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>sk</i>	FILED <i>sk</i>
NOV 26 1982	
FBI-OMAHA	
	b6 b7c

Their enthusiasm resulted in support and passage of legislation which became effective January 1, 1979, and requires that local law enforcement agencies and coroners supply dental records for missing persons and unidentified deceased persons to the California Department of Justice (California Penal Code Section 11114 and California Health and Safety Code Section 10254).

In accordance with the new law, the local law enforcement agency completes a DOJ missing persons report for a person reported missing and provides the missing person's immediate family or next of kin with a DOJ release form requesting that they obtain the missing person's dental records. After conferring with the county coroner about unidentified deceased persons who may be the missing person, the law enforcement agency forwards the DOJ missing persons report and dental records to the DOJ Dental Identification Program.

Dental charts of unidentified deceased persons are submitted to the program by county coroners after they have exhausted all attempts to identify the individuals. These dental charts are compiled for the specific purpose of comparison with the dental records for missing persons. If a match occurs, the coroner who submitted the dental chart is notified by the program and sent the dental records of the missing person for positive identification.

Prior to implementation of the program, DOJ maintained separate files on missing persons and unidentified deceased persons which contained physi-

# WHO'S NEWS?

The California Peace Officers' Association would like to recognize and congratulate the following peace officers for their dedicated service and outstanding contributions to professionalism throughout their law enforcement careers:

**Walt Mendoza**, on the occasion of his retirement from the California State Department of Justice where he has served with distinction as director of the Data Center since 1972. He has been in state service for 36 years.

**Wesley S. Harvey**, on the occasion of his retirement as assistant chief of the Los Angeles Police Department where he has served with distinction since 1978. He has been with the department for 25 years. He had also served on the Executive Committee for the past year.

**Duane Baker**, on the occasion of his retirement as chief of the Glendale

Police Department where he has served with distinction. He is also a past-president of CPOA, having served from 1978 to 1979.

**John C. Gutting**, on the occasion of his completion of 50 years of active service to the community of South Gate. He had been with the South Gate Police Department for 36 years, the last 2 as chief of police, retiring in 1968. He has continued his involvement in the community and up until October 1982, was an active member of the South Gate Traffic Committee. He is also a retired life member of CPOA, having joined in 1940.

## DENTAL ID PROGRAM

cal descriptors that were compared for possible matches. However, many times, accurate physical descriptions were not available for unidentified deceased persons because the bodies were badly mutilated or decomposed. In addition, fingerprints, which provide a positive means of identification, were often difficult or impossible to obtain from badly mutilated or decomposed bodies.

The program has saved law enforcement agencies and coroners valuable time in their investigations of missing persons and unidentified deceased persons by providing a means of positively identifying deceased persons using dental charts. The fact that many people have not been fingerprinted but most have had some dental work facilitates the use of dental charts and records over fingerprints as a means of positive identification.

Most important, the program has aided the families of missing and unidentified deceased persons by clearing some of the uncertainties confronting them.

Since implementation, the program has identified 34 unidentified deceased persons. In many cases, unidentified deceased persons were positively identified as missing persons reported by California agencies hundreds of miles away from where the bodies were discovered. A majority of the persons identified, 28 of the 34, were victims of homicide. This included homicide victims in Nevada and Arizona who were identified through the program as missing persons from California. This was possible because law enforcement agencies and coroners throughout the western United States may utilize the program.

The program has also provided assistance in identifying an additional 19 unidentified deceased individuals for whom coroners had possible names but could not establish positive identification. In such cases, the program was able to furnish a missing persons report and dental records to the coroners to assist in establishing the identity of the deceased.

Dental records and charts of missing and unidentified deceased persons are maintained by the program for as long as the submitting agency wishes and are continually compared against incoming reports. The current file includes dental records for 650 missing persons and 375 unidentified deceased persons.

For further information regarding California's Dental Identification Program, contact the California Department of Justice, P.O. Box 13417, Sacramento, California 95813; ATTENTION: Dental Identification Program; 916

739-5114  
OCTOBER 1982/31

## The scars of an abused child can stay with us all his life.



Many teenage drug addicts and teenage prostitutes report being abused children. So do juvenile delinquents.

And because we all pay to respond to those problems, we are all victims of child abuse.

Yet child abuse can be prevented.

The National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse is a private, charitable organization that knows

how to do it. But we need your help. We need money. We need volunteers. Send us your check today or write for our booklet.

And, remember, if we don't start somewhere, we won't get anywhere.

 **National Committee for  
Prevention of Child Abuse**

### Help us get to the heart of the problem.

Write: Prevent Child Abuse, Box 2866, Chicago, Illinois 60690

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosch case is just one of 150,000

By the Associated Press

A chill rain was falling over Iowa on Nov. 12 as John Gosch's parents marked his 13th birthday without him. Two months ago he piled the Sunday papers in his wagon, left on his West Des Moines newspaper route, and vanished.

On that day, John became a statistic, one of 150,000 children who disappear each year, according to Child Find Inc., a child-tracking agency with headquarters in New Paltz, N.Y.

But John is a unique statistic: He is the only Iowa child who is believed to have been abducted and who is still missing, according to a local Child Find volunteer.

Nationwide, 50,000 children are taken by strangers, such as sex offenders or extortionists; parents in custody disputes account for 100,000.

## Unaccounted For

Of the 150,000, Child Find says 10 percent are found alive and 10 percent are found dead. The remaining 120,000 remain missing and unaccounted for, and, until recently, there has been little recognition of the families' private hell.

"Somewhere around 2 or 3 in the morning, the eyeballs pop open and there we are thinking about our son," said Noreen Gosch. "When will we have to face the day when we say, 'Johnny, we're going to have to give up?'"

John's wagon, still piled with Des Moines Sunday Registers, was found two blocks from his home in a neighborhood everybody thought was safe. Based on witnesses' accounts, his mother thinks John was forced into a stranger's car at 6 a.m., 12 minutes after he left home on Sept. 5.

"People don't want to believe that these things happen in little Iowa," said Candy Gilchrist, who formed a chapter of Child Find in Des Moines to help parents with missing children after John disappeared.

Since then, she said, "It's been a crash course in child abduction." Authorities told her that the approaching holiday season can be especially dangerous for children in busy shopping malls.

Abductions have shaken communities from New York to Alaska and given rise to similar local agencies across the country. This year, highly publicized tragedies focused national attention on the problem of missing children.

## Law Signed

President Reagan signed a law last month sponsored by Representative Paul Simon (Dem., Ill.) and Senator Paula Hawkins (Rep., Fla.) to have descriptions of missing children entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Computer.

The two cases that moved the lawmakers were the disappearance three years ago of 6-year-old Etan Patz near a New York City school bus stop and last year's kidnapping of Adam Walsh, also 6, from a Hollywood, Fla., shopping center. Etan has never been found. All that was found of Adam was his severed head.

Within 10 days of the disappearance of John Gosch, Gilchrist said, she heard of 10 other possible abductions or attempted abductions in Iowa, but there is really no way to know for sure because no records are kept.

Data may become available since the passage of the new federal law. Also, she said, the Iowa Legislature may be asked to enact a parallel state law, although Child Find, as a non-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1B and 4B

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 11/21/82

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

## CHILDREN

*continued from Page One*

profit organization, cannot lobby for state law.

A state law, she said, would allow use of the Iowa Crime Computer Network and would allow Iowa to exchange information with other states. "They can do it on license numbers of a car, but they can't do it with a kid," Gilchrist said.

## Recent Programs

Newspapers around the country have written about missing children this year, and Reader's Digest featured photographs of missing children. "60 Minutes" on CBS, "Good Morning America" on ABC and NBC's "Today" recently broadcast programs on the subject.

Child Find is the only child-tracking agency with national scope. For a \$50 fee, Child Find compiles statistics on a child and notifies parents and local police if a reported sighting is verified.

Since it was formed two years ago, Child Find has located 230 children, most of them in the past nine months. Its publicity has grown.

"We've really touched a nerve," said spokeswoman Kristin Cole Brown.

**CHILDREN**  
Please turn to Page 4B.

7A-1053-96

E

# False alarm as woods searched for Gosch

Child Find says it has support groups in every state. At state fair in Oklahoma, Friends of Child Find helpers hand out leaflets telling parents how to prevent child abductions.

In Westchester County, N.Y., officials are putting Child Find's directory of missing children in the schools, and teachers are urged to telephone parents when children are more than 30 minutes late.

Brown said the agency's figures on missing children are estimates based on research done last year by a U.S. Senate subcommittee and take FBI statistics into account.

In Iowa, Gilchrist's Friends of Child Find distributes "abduction awareness" posters with the agency's hotline number to schools, churches and doctors' offices where children are patients. When that strategy was used in Utah, a dentist recognized one abducted child after he had worked on her teeth.

## Utah Abductions

Utah residents were particularly disturbed after several abductions hit close to home.

Jeff and Elaine Runyan's 3-year-old daughter, Rachael Marie, disappeared Aug. 26 from a playground in Sunset, a small town near Salt Lake City. A \$20,000 reward was offered and the Runyans flew to New York to appeal on national television for help in locating the little girl. The child's nude body was discovered Sept. 19 in a canyon creek.

"I have never seen a more tranquil

beautiful place to raise children. It just makes you feel like you're not safe anywhere," said Dorothy Williams of Salt Lake City, who is active in Utah's Child Find chapter.

Parents in Utah are having their children fingerprinted and putting together information — birth marks, official papers, custody records — that police might need to trace a child. A state law has been proposed to require known sex offenders to register with authorities.

Maria Martin, a 4-year-old Provo girl, was abducted on the family's California vacation a year ago.

"You don't know whether your child is dead or alive," the girl's mother, Marjan, said of her ordeal. "You can't allow yourself to grieve because your child may be alive and she may be waiting for you."

## Rescued

Maria was alive. She was rescued 10 days later when a ransom demand

led police to the kidnapper. But for months afterward, she vomited every time she saw a man who, like her kidnapper, wore a beard.

Child Find's workers, many of them parents of abducted children, try to counsel the families. Martin said she would have appreciated such support. When Maria was missing, she said she received crank telephone calls.

"I thought I was going crazy," she said. "If I had met a parent at the time who could have said, 'You're not alone, we have gone through it,' that would have been tremendous."

Gilchrist said she attempted to start the Des Moines chapter last May, but could find no interest. Even now, after the highly publicized Gosch case, Gilchrist said, "It's been very difficult to get started."

The chapter has eight volunteers.

The Oklahoma Child Find chapter, which offers emotional support and referrals to detectives, lawyers and doctors who will give free advice, is

led by Dr. Robin Gunning, whose three children were taken by his ex-wife four years ago. They have not been found. Gunning practices his own form of therapy, writing letters to his children and putting them in a drawer for them to read if they return.

## Alaska Problem

Alaska presents special problems for distraught parents because it is so easy to hide children in its vast emptiness, said Nancy Barros of Anchorage, who has formed Missing Children of America.

"People out here don't think anything" when your kids aren't enrolled in school, she said. "There are no questions asked."

Barros, whose ex-husband took their three children two years ago, is working on an identification system similar to Utah's. To finance the project, Barros said, she planned to solicit money from oil companies and sell identification bracelets engraved with the names of missing children.

pattered on the bracelets worn during the Vietnam War for missing American servicemen.

The volunteer efforts across the country are not matched by any federal program to track children.

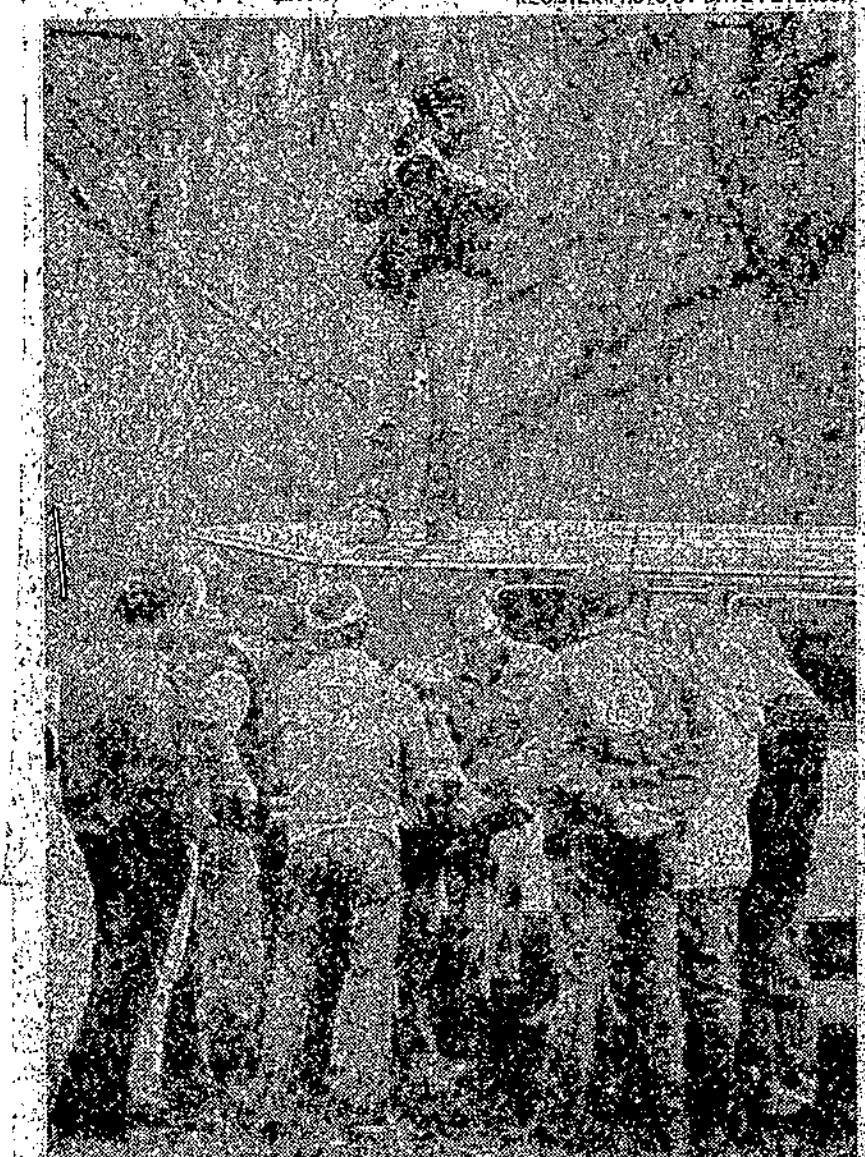
The FBI says abductions should be handled initially by local police. The agency said it would not get involved in parental abductions unless three conditions were met: a felony warrant was issued; the parent had crossed state lines; and there was evidence the child was in danger.

Local police policies vary. Often, they will not get involved if it appears the child has run away or been abducted by a parent.

## Police Criticized

Noreen Gosch said she believes police in West Des Moines have not pursued her son's case vigorously. The Gosches have hired private detectives at \$200 a day and have mailed handbills to law enforcement agencies around the nation.

REGISTER PHOTO BY DAVE PETERSON



Photographer Paul Desatoff stands on top of a van Saturday morning to film a search party organizing in Walnut Woods State Park near Des Moines. As people combed the park for missing John Gosch, the Los Angeles film crew documented their search as part of a television program about missing children. John Gosch has been missing since Sept. 5.

"It's taken every cent that we worked for for 15 years to pay for our kids' college education," she said.

Gerald Shanahan, director of Iowa's Division of Criminal Investigation, said police had interviewed 371 people and checked 5,000 cars but had come up empty-handed in their search for John.

"We just don't know whether he's five blocks from here in the corn-fields or 3,000 miles from here," Shanahan said.

Gosch said she and her husband know her son may be dead, but until there is proof they have vowed to say only words of hope.

Hope fueled another search on Saturday. Her husband had a few anxious moments Saturday morning during a search of the Walnut Woods State Park, just south of West Des Moines.

A pair of blue thongs, similar to those that his son was wearing when he disappeared nearly three months ago, was found on a bank of the Raccoon River.

"My heart was kind of beating a little bit," admitted John Gosch. "They're about like his, but they're not. His were more worn down. I'm glad they're not his."

Every piece of litter — from a discarded bait sack to a hashish pipe to a ragged sleeping bag — drew attention from the search party, which seemed to include as many reporters as searchers.

That kind of bothered Mark Judisch, 17, a senior at Valley High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop No. 208.

"I'm really disappointed in Valley," said Mark, shaking his head. "They had a sign-up to help with this search, and they announced that only one person had signed up. We've got 2,000 kids in school and only one person signed up."

#### HBO Crew

A television crew from Home Box Office was on hand to film the day's events for a documentary on missing children. Meanwhile, sales of candy bars began at Valley West Mall Saturday, with proceeds going to the Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc. committee to pay the salaries of the four private detectives working on the case.

"They're doing a good job," said Gosch, still clutching the blue thongs. "They might be able to release something soon about the case."

The small group broke up and headed for their homes around noon. Everyone except John Gosch, that is. He was going to keep looking because he and his wife will not give up.

"They will not give up because, as she said last week, 'There's a little boy out there. God knows what they're doing to him. We're going into the dead of winter soon. We still don't have our son.'

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Psychic's tip proves fruitless

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Sheriff's deputies and police went to a heavily wooded area north of Des Moines Friday after a clairvoyant's tip that they might find information on missing paperboy John Gosch, but the search revealed nothing.

Glenn McDole, chief of the patrol division of the Polk County sheriff's department, said there were no immediate plans to return to the 40-acre site.

Seven men from the sheriff's department and the Johnston Police Department, including McDole, searched the area on foot.

McDole said the site west of the Margo Frankel State Park appeared to match the description provided by Greta Alexander, the Delavan, Ill., psychic who lawmen in the state have often sought out for help.

He said as the group moved across the state-owned land, they were in radio contact with Alexander in Illinois.

"She said that it had to be the area, but she got tired. She has asked us to send her a map of the park showing the topography of it," McDole said.

The lawmen may return if Alexander insists its the right area, he said.

Gosch disappeared Sept. 5 as he prepared to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register in West Des Moines.

Despite several leads, including other information provided by Alexander and other psychics, not a trace of the youngster has been found.

JOHN  
GOSCH

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3A

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Sat., 12/4/82

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIMCharacter: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

7A-1053-101

- due

1082

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b7c

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Papers in U.S., Canada aid in search for youth

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

From the Turtle Mountain Star, a weekly newspaper in Rolla, N.D., came this note: "We're off the beaten path, but who knows, maybe we can help."

Alma Hughes, the advertising manager of the Pratt (Kan.) Tribune, wrote: "My prayers will be with you...."

The Repository, a Canton, Ohio, newspaper added: "We pray he will be found."

A month ago, hundreds of letters from The Des Moines Register went out to newspapers in North America asking help in finding missing West Des Moines newspaperboy John Gosch, 13. He vanished Sept. 5 while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

The newspapers were asked to print, as a public service, a small advertisement containing Gosch's photograph, a brief description of him and the disappearance. Also included were the phone numbers of West Des Moines police and Child Find Inc., the New Paltz, N.Y.-based organization that assists in finding missing children.

At least 150 newspapers have run the announcements. They range from the Los Angeles Times to the Medicine Hat News in Alberta, Canada, to the Laramie (Wyo.) Daily



JOHN GOSCH

Boomerang to the Turtle Mountain Star.

Scores of leads have come back to Des Moines — either to the police, family, or The Register — as a result of the ads. None, however, has unlocked a crucial bit of information. Gosch's disappearance remains a mystery.

The disappearance, noted David Walker, publisher of the Emporia (Kan.) Gazette, "strikes close to home."

"With children of my own, all past and present carriers, his disappearance" was personal, said Walter.

Paul Drohan, managing editor of the Brandon Sun in Brandon, Manitoba, said, "I have three children of my own — all younger than John. My heart goes out to his parents. May whatever kind of a God you and John's parents turn to show his mercy by lifting this burden."

Added the Kittanning (Pa.) Leader-Times: "Our prayers go out to his parents that he be found safe and sound."

Some newspapers pledged to run the notice repeatedly, and one publisher said it would appear each week "right up until Christmas time."

Jack Overmyer, publisher of the Rochester (Ind.) Sentinel, said, "News of the disappearance of one of your carrier boys was most disturbing, to say the least."

The notices triggered feature stories. Reporters, handed the notices by their editors, were told to develop it into a story.

A reporter from NBC News read the Gosch ad in the Washington Post.

"We were wondering why," the reporter said Thursday, "the Washington Post was running this notice about a missing boy in Des Moines."

The reporter said NBC now is considering doing a story of its own on Gosch's disappearance.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8M

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 12/3/82

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

7A-1053-102

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M  
 Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date: Fri., 12/10/82  
 Edition: Morning

## Mystery youth in New Jersey not John Gosch

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A youngster found in New Jersey recently was not missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier John Gosch, although there were similarities between the boys.

Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Division of Criminal Investigation, said Thursday that police in Cedar Grove, N.J., responding to missing person bulletin on the 13-year-old Gosch, said they had a "John Doe" youth who had been beaten and was unable to talk and identify himself.

Shanahan said, however, that the youngster didn't have blue eyes or a birth mark on his chest, as Gosch does.

"It didn't check out," Shanahan said.

Gosch, who disappeared early Sept. 5 while preparing to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register, vanished without a trace.

Police still consider him a missing person.

Said Shanahan, "We've have a lot of leads but we've come up with nothing. We are working on a few right now."

He declined to say what they were.

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
 VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
 or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

7A-1053 — 108

EJ

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Pages 1M and 3M  
**The Des Moines Register**  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date: 12/23/82  
 Edition Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
 VICTIM  
 Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

# Missing boy's parents say detectives located suspect

By KEN FUSON

Register Staff Writer

The mother of missing West Des Moines paperboy John Gosch says private investigators have identified a man they believe may be holding her son, but police say they have no suspect.

Noreen Gosch declined to say who the man is, where he lives or why private investigators hired by the family believe they have information about her son. But she said the man resembles an artist's composite drawing of a person seen in the area on the morning her son disappeared.

West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney and Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said Wednesday they have received no information from the boy's parents or from their private investigators about a possible suspect in the case.

As a result, Cooney and Shanahan said they couldn't say whether the information might be valuable to finding the boy or a suspect.

"If they have a suspect, they should be sharing it with us," Cooney said. "I don't mean to be taking away from the private detectives, but they just don't have the tools we do."

## "Positive Stroke"

Noreen Gosch called the information "a real positive stroke for our family." Her husband, John, said the

family remains "hopeful" the boy is still alive.

John David Gosch, 13, was last seen shortly after starting his Sunday morning newspaper route. Authorities have been hard-pressed to find any clues since the Sept. 5 disappearance.

In a statement released Wednesday afternoon, Noreen Gosch said: "A suspect has been identified and is currently under investigation by the private detectives working for the Gosch family. No further information can be released at this time due to the ongoing investigation."

She said a team of as many as five investigators headed by Dennis G. Whelan of Omaha has talked to the man. She declined to say what he told them. "They have been working on this for several weeks," she said.

## Private Detectives

The family hired the detectives after becoming dissatisfied with the work done by law enforcement authorities.

The missing boy's father said authorities won't be called in until private investigators have a chance to "fine-tune" their work. Asked why West Des Moines police and DCI agents haven't been notified about the man, he said: "We don't want them to louse it up, to be very honest with you."

His wife said releasing the information now will help the work being

GOSCH  
Please turn to Page 3M

7A - 1053-109

b6  
b7C

## Gosches delay yule celebration

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page One*

done by private investigators, but she declined to say how.

Shanahan said authorities want to talk with the family and the private investigators, but he said the family hasn't been cooperative. "We may have the same information," he said. "We don't know."

He said information released by the family might hamper the prosecution of a suspect, if one ever is arrested and if he doesn't match previous descriptions. Chief Assistant Polk County Attorney Ronald Wheeler said he couldn't comment without more information.

### No Suspect

Cooney said police have not identified a suspect. "I wish them the best of luck in the world," he said, referring to the private investigators. "I don't care who does it. I just hope one of us gets it done and we get the boy back alive."

Cooney said Wednesday that the West Des Moines Police Department is offering separate \$1,000 rewards for information about each of two cars that were in the area the morning the boy was last seen.

One of the vehicles was described as a gray or silver car with a dark, wide and contrasting stripe on its side, which was seen at the intersection of Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines.

Police said the other car was described as a two-tone blue automobile, possibly a two-door, seen at the intersection of Forty-second Street and Ashworth Road. The driver apparently asked directions to Eighty-sixth Street.

Anyone with information about the

cars is asked to call 223-3211 or 281-5138.

### Reward Money

Cooney said at least \$33,000 in reward money has been pledged for information leading to the location of the boy. The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company is offering a \$5,000 reward for such information.

"It's fine," the elder John Gosch said of the reward offers, "but this comes after 3½ months. Why didn't they do something like this the first week?"

His wife said her family will not celebrate Christmas until the boy is found. "Until we have Johnny," she said, "we're not having Christmas."

She said the family is "more than optimistic" about the information released Wednesday. "This is a very positive stroke. This is more than we've had to date."

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Tues., 12/28/82

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

## Gosch case witness questioned; no leads

By RICK JOST

Register Staff Writer

State investigators have questioned a witness in the disappearance of West Des Moines paperboy John Gosch but say the interviews haven't turned up any new leads.

JOHN  
GOSCH

Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said Monday that the man is the same man identified as a suspect last week by the missing boy's parents.

But Shanahan said the DCI considered the man a witness or "a source of information at this point," not a suspect.

"What he's told us so far doesn't give us any leads to his [the Gosch boy's] whereabouts," Shanahan said.

"At this point," he said, "we're trying to determine whether he does or does not have information."

John David Gosch, 13, was last seen

Sept. 5 shortly after starting his Des Moines Sunday Register newspaper route,

### Two Cars Seen

The DCI and West Des Moines police have been seeking information about two cars that were in the area the morning the boy was last seen.

Shanahan said investigators are "still looking for the cars." Interviews with the witness yielded "no reason to believe" that the man was driving either of the vehicles, he said.

But Shanahan would not say who the man is, where he lives or what possible connection he has to the case.

The missing boy's mother, Noreen Gosch, released a statement last Wednesday saying that "a suspect has been identified and is currently under investigation by the private detectives working for the Gosch family."

She said the man resembles an artist's composite drawing of a person seen in the area the morning her son disappeared.

The family hired the detectives

after becoming dissatisfied with efforts of law enforcement officers.

### Not Notified

The missing boy's father, John, said last Wednesday that the family hadn't notified the DCI or West Des Moines police about the man, adding: "We don't want them to louse it up, to be very honest with you."

Shanahan said Monday that law enforcement investigators were already aware of the man before the Gosch family released their statement last week, although they had "purposely planned" not to question him earlier.

Noreen Gosch said Monday that Shanahan's comment "is a lie" to cover up the implication that state agents had not been doing their duty.

"They [DCI agents] did not get the information about the man until last Thursday," she said. "The reason I know is that we were the ones that supplied them with the information."

She declined to release any specific information about the man, saying, "When the time comes that it can be given, it will be given."

7A-1053-110



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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Page 1M

Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Wed., 1/19/83

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING

or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Another psychic in D.M. to hunt for John Gosch

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

An East Coast psychic, the latest of 76 psychics who have approached the parents of John Gosch, will begin searching today for the missing newspaper carrier, contending the youngster is being held in Iowa against his will.

Known only as "John," the psychic has traveled 1,500 miles at his own expense to try to solve the mystery of the 13-year-old's whereabouts.

The psychics who have contacted the Gosches have ranged from a Minneapolis-based clairvoyant who supplied a detailed map to the family, to a woman who dropped into the Gosches' West Des Moines home with a Ouija board to spell out a Des Moines address.

None of the psychics — including the Illinois-based Greta Alexander used by police — has uncovered a shred of information in the baffling case. What happened to the missing Gosch, who vanished Sept. 5 while preparing to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register in West Des Moines, remains a mystery, eluding solution by police, state investigators and a private detective hired by the Gosches.

The family has received the psychics with caution — and without money. The psychics have had to pay their own expenses, including the East Coast man who is searching today.

Norleen Gosch, the boy's mother, said only about six of the 76 psychics supplied information that was used, namely for searches of wooded areas. "I'm not getting my hopes up," Gosch said of the arrival of the East Coast psychic. "You have to hold yourself back on every lead because we've had so many disappointments."

The psychic, she said, got the information about her son from a local sheriff and telephoned Des Moines.

7A-1053-122

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 21 1983	
FBI-Omaha	

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# Officials clear Gosch

## 'mystery man'

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A "mystery man" questioned in the disappearance of missing newspaper boy Johnny Gosch has been eliminated as a suspect, authorities announced Tuesday.

In a joint statement, Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Division of Criminal Investigation, and Orval Cooney, West Des Moines police chief, said the man could not have been involved.

"He has been eliminated as having any knowledge in this case," said Shanahan, although the man had called the parents of the missing youngster to tell them he gave Johnny a lift from Des Moines to Atlantic Sept. 5, the day the 13-year-old boy disappeared.

"He called because he said he felt sorry for the parents," Shanahan said in comments after issuing a three-page news release. "But what the bottom line is, the real reason, we just don't know."

The man had telephoned the boy's mother, Noreen, Nov. 22 and told her he picked up her son on Interstate 235 about a half-mile from where the

youngster was last seen starting out on his Des Moines Sunday Register route in West Des Moines. He said he became suspicious that the boy was a runaway and stopped at Atlantic to call police. When he returned to his truck, the boy was gone, he said.

But Shanahan said that the man had learned the information he gave the Gosches from newspaper accounts.

### Investigators Hired

Tuesday's joint announcement was greeted with skepticism by John Gosch, the youngster's father, who has hired private investigators to determine what happened to his son.

"Our detectives have told us this man is suspicious. They were unable

to prove that he was in Texas on the day Johnny disappeared," he said.

Shanahan and Cooney, in what they called a "departure of commenting on pending investigations," said the man, whom they declined to identify, was "in a small city in Texas" the day Gosch vanished.

It was established and corroborated that he was there. It was concluded that this person was not in West Des Moines Sept. 5 and was not involved in the disappearance of John David Gosch.

They said "all the information was verified" in polygraph tests given to the man, and that other newspaper carriers who saw Johnny talking to a man driving a car on the morning of the disappearance were unable to identify the man.

Shanahan said the man didn't resemble a drawing the Gosches had an artist prepare. He said that the Gosches may have thought the sketch

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M and 8M  
Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Date: Wed., 1/5/83  
Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM  
Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or  
Classification: 7A-1053  
Submitting Office: Omaha

looked like the man because they saw a photograph of him taken some seven years ago. The man, said Shanahan, has changed since then.

The elder Gosch said there were "details" about the man that "look suspicious."

"He made the statement to our detectives about something that happened the first couple of days at school that he couldn't have gotten from the newspapers. The only way he could have found out was either talking to Johnny or us and he didn't talk to us about it."

### "Little Scuffle"

"He told about a little scuffle at the Indian Hills Junior High school [between his son and another youngster]. It was so precise," Gosch said.

Shanahan said the man was one of

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 8M

7A-1053-123

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82

# Johnston wants Gosches to talk

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page One*

about 20 individuals who have been interviewed by police as possible suspects.

Shanahan said the investigation of the youngster's disappearance "is still being vigorously pursued," but there have been no significant leads.

Meanwhile, Polk County Attorney Dan Johnston said he has emerged in the case to act as a "bridge" between the Gosches and authorities and to smooth over differences.

"The relationship between the Gosches and the police deteriorated early, at the start of the investigation. As far as I'm concerned there's blame on both sides and I wouldn't want to measure how much of the blame."

"The thing you can say for police is that they've been through many investigations before and I know of no one where they've had this kind of problem."

Calling the Gosch disappearance "a major case," Johnston said, "I have to list this as one of the highest priorities. Police are not without leads. They're not at a dead end. They have not developed all areas."

He said attempts were being made to get the Gosches to agree to an interview "to clear up some of the questions."

## "Not Suspects"

Noting that there had been earlier interviews, Johnston said another face-to-face meeting between the Gosches and police "was necessary for detectives."

"This is an interview. They are not suspects and there is no evidence that points to that. Anybody who thinks that is wrong. That's just wrong."

Gosch said he wanted to discuss the interview with his attorney. He added: "We have answered all the questions they've put before us before."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Anger flares as Gosch

## hunt drags

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Des Moines Staff Writer

There's no hesitation, no timidity in Noreen Gosch's voice. "I want my boy and I don't care what I have to do to get him back."

She inhales deeply, and then, with a faint quaver in her voice that hints of painful months past, she sighs. "What price would you put on your child? What is his life worth to you? To us it's everything."

About four months ago, on a mild Sept. 5 morning, Johnny Gosch, the 12-year-old son of Noreen and John Gosch, vanished while he was preparing to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register in West Des Moines.

After scores of leads, many of them painfully weak, the disappearance of the youngster, whose 13th birthday has come and gone, remains baffling.

Next week, even more mystery will be heaped upon the case. Police are expected to announce that a man who the Gosches claim has vital information about their son, is not involved. Authorities will say they believe he was in Texas at the time. "This guy is a 'flake' who changed his story several times under interrogation," says one officer.

**Not Convinced**

But the Gosches, anticipating the announcement, are not convinced. They maintain that the man has an important role in the disappearance and even told Noreen Gosch that he

*"I really don't give a damn what Noreen Gosch has to say. I really don't give a damn what she thinks. I'm interested in the boy and what we can do to find him. I'm kind of sick of her."*

**Police Chief Orval Cooney**

gave Johnny a ride to Atlantic the day he disappeared.

It has become an unusual search and perhaps an unprecedented one in Iowa. The Gosches have sidestepped police and are conducting their own private investigation, pouring in thousands of dollars for private detectives to poke around in places like New York and the Southwest for their son.

"It's not unheard of to see people getting involved like this, but it is unusual," says John Callaghan, director of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy at Camp Dodge and a 27-year FBI veteran.

"Families who are very emotionally involved are not going to leave any

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Pages 1B and 4B  
 Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date: 1/2/83  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
 VICTIM  
 Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

stone unturned," said Callaghan. "I guess it's like someone who has terminal cancer. They're going to try everything, including things that are experimental, to get results."

**Investigations Clash**

The private search has collided in a bang with the official one. The Gosches say police have bugged their phones and they are being followed. "That's crazy," responds West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney, who heads the official investigation.

The Gosches charge that West Des Moines police are incompetent, that they have done despicable things to us. Among those things was a statement to the couple that they were among the people police checked out as suspects in the early stages of the investigation. They later were told they no longer were regarded as suspects.

The Gosches say the police have botched the investigation.

Case in point: The Gosches say investigators have never bothered to search Johnny Gosch's room thoroughly, looking for leads such as notes and hair samples. The Gosches say police did not bother to lift fingerprint samples of the youngster from his room and do not have prints to

GOSCH  
Please turn to Page 4B

7A-1053-124

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 21 1983	
FBI-OMAHA	

*[Signature]*

# Gosches' savings, emotions drained by investigation

## GOSCH

*Continued from Page One*

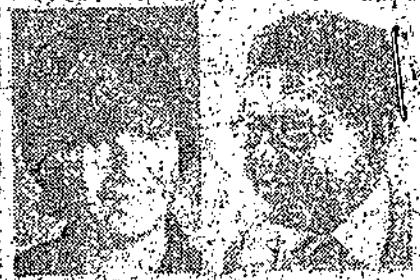
this day. The Gosches' detectives have obtained prints from the room. The samples may help determine where their son has been and incriminate an abductor — if Johnny Gosch was abducted. Police continue to say only that he is a "missing person."

She adds, "Everything we've had to work for; we've had to go at it tooth and nail. We've gotten no cooperation from the Police Department. We're following the right path by hiring private investigators who know what they're doing."

When the Gosches' detectives showed up at the West Des Moines Police Department to introduce themselves, Noreen Gosch says, they were told by Cooney, "Good luck fellows. I wish you luck but don't expect any cooperation or communication from this department. You're on your own."



NOREEN  
GOSCH



JOHNNY  
GOSCH



ORVAL  
COONEY

Cooney's recollection differs. "That's not true," the chief says. "I did wish them good luck but I didn't tell them we wouldn't cooperate."

The Gosches say the West Des Moines police have told other police departments to stay out of the case because we (West Des Moines police) are going to solve it.

Cooney says that also is not true. He accuses the Gosches of manipulating the press to their advantage, of interfering with the investigation.

"I really don't give a damn what Noreen Gosch has to say. I really don't give a damn what she thinks. I'm interested in the boy and what we can do to find him. I'm kind of sick of her," the chief groans.

The investigation, he says, is "very much alive."

"We're trying to do a job. We've never let up and we're working hard at it."

Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Division of Criminal Investigation,

which has extended help to the West Des Moines police, says, "The public is so upset with the whole can of worms," a reference to the Gosches' publicized charges of police bungling.

Says Noreen Gosch, "Gerald Shanahan sat in my kitchen Oct. 7 and said he would contact us once a week and update us on what was happening. We didn't hear from him again until Nov. 10."

"Just because he has a big pipe in his mouth and sits in that big chair doesn't mean he's infallible. I've got more at stake in this case — my son's life."

She believes the key to cracking the case is the "mystery man" who police are expected to say is not involved. Noreen Gosch says he called her Nov. 22 at her office at the West Towers Office Building, 1200 Thirty-fifth St. in West Des Moines.

She says he told her that he had picked up the youngster the morning of Sept. 5 on Interstate 235 — about a

half mile from where Johnny Gosch was to deliver newspapers — and gave him a ride in a truck west to Atlantic.

After the man stopped his truck there to make a phone call, Johnny got away and the caller did not see him again. Noreen Gosch says she was told:

"He called, he said, because he felt sorry and wanted to help," she says.

#### Witnesses Claims

Police are expected to say there were witnesses who claimed the man, believed to be a Des Moines resident, was in Texas at the time and could not have given Gosch a lift.

But Noreen Gosch says her investigators, who went to Texas to trace the man's steps, say there is no proof he was there.

She says the man matches a composite drawing made by an artist hired by the Gosches who drew the sketch from details provided by witnesses. The witnesses, who also

were delivering newspapers that morning, say the man was sitting in a parked car talking with the boy who stood outside the car.

"He has a criminal record a mile long but there's more to it than that," says Noreen Gosch. "He says things about Johnny that tell me he knew him. He describes his mannerisms, how he cocked his head or how he talks. I feel he actually must have had a conversation with him."

"There are," she says, "many details about him that should be cleared up."

After spending \$7,000 on the investigation, Noreen and John Gosch say they have spent almost all the money they have. They say much of what they had was set aside for college for Johnny and their two other children — Joe, a Valley High School senior, and daughter Christy, an Iowa State University junior.

John Gosch works as sales director for Carpenter Sales Inc., a Bondurant fertilizer firm. Noreen Gosch works as a district secretary for the Economics Laboratory and teaches yoga.

Joe has taken a second job after school to help. Christy now has a job at college to pay for expenses.

#### Chocolate Bars

The Gosches say about \$2,000 has been netted in the sale of chocolate bars — 18,000 of them to date — at shopping centers. The Gosches say they have received more than a dozen requests from others outside Des Moines who want to sell the candy to church and civic organizations for them.

They say the money goes to a non-profit organization called Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc., which distributes it to pay expenses. Kathryn Koop, the Jesup native who was among the U.S. hostages in Iran and now lives in New York, is an honorary member.

The collections have helped pay salaries and expenses of investigators and for printing materials, the Gosches say.

Once a week, a group of volunteers, sometimes as many as 20, meets in the Gosches' West Des Moines home to discuss the past week's progress and to map plans. Most were strangers before the disappearance. They have included artists, home-makers, lawyers and computer operators.

The Gosches' pledge to commit everything to finding their son has exacted a high price.

On one occasion, Noreen Gosch says, her daughter was helping sell candy at one of the shopping centers and was spat upon by a woman who said, "Your mother is weird."

Another woman walked up and said, "I don't know why you're doing all this. The kid is dead."

There have been no restful nights. The elder John Gosch says a friend has slipped away from meetings to retch because of the stress.

Would they accept the fact that they may never know what happened to their son?

Says the boy's father: "I think we're going to get answers. We're going to find something. Something happened. There are answers out there and we're going to find them."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8

Omaha World Herald

Date: Omaha, Nebraska

Edition: March 10, 1983

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: Finding Johnny  
Involves Teamwork

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:



Robert Taylor/WORLD HERALD

...and Mrs. Gosch... Their son has been missing since Sept. 5.

## Finding Johnny Involves Teamwork

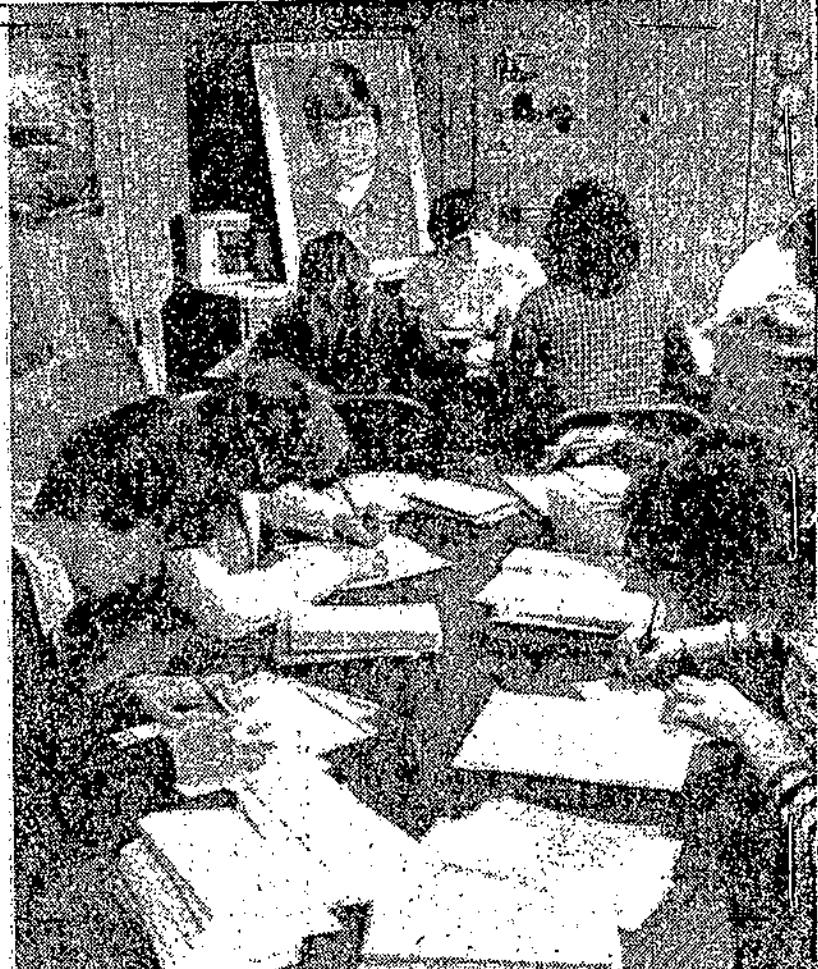
Thirty-two people attended a meeting in Carter Lake Wednesday night to help in the effort to find Johnny Gosch, the 13-year-old Des Moines boy who disappeared six months ago.

The boy's parents, John and Noreen Gosch, met with volunteers who prepared fliers to be sent around the nation in hopes someone will recognize Johnny.

The Gosches have formed a group, Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc., that has chapters in four other cities. Gosch said the group has raised \$20,000 through sales of candy and buttons. After finding Johnny, he said, the group plans to help look for other missing children.

Mrs. Gosch believes Johnny's abduction was part of an organized effort, possibly the work of a religious cult or a group that exploits children for pornography.

The leader of the Omaha chapter of the Find Johnny organization is Beverly Bequette, whose son was abducted in 1974 at age 13 and found 18 months later.



Volunteers prepare fliers... at the Handicap Mobility Office in Carter Lake.

7A-1053-136  
Jas S

WJS

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1B  
Des Moines Sunday Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 3/6/83

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIMCharacter: POSSIBLE KIDNAPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Six months of dead ends in Johnny Gosch search

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

When a caller said he knew where Johnny Gosch was, police were cautious but interested.

So a meeting was arranged and the cops waited — and waited. The caller didn't show and the cops soon learned why: He had been admitted to Broadlawns Medical Center for psychiatric care.

That lead, as have scores of others before and after, ended yet another frustrating dead end.

John David Gosch, as newspaper carriers were doing all over the city, stepped out of his house early on the morning of last Sept. 5 to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register, his wagon and small dog, Gretchen, in tow. Shortly afterward he vanished without a trace.

Today, six months later, the youngster, who would be 13 years old now, remains missing — gone on that 70-degree morning from the sidewalks of the quiet, tree-lined neighborhood where he lived in West Des Moines.

His wagon was found a block away,

filled with an unbroken bundle of newspapers. His dog returned home.

### Numbing

Investigators now admit they can't explain what happened. Not a shred of good information has emerged from a numbing investigation that has extended into Canada, to a blood-soaked car wash in Des Moines, and into the mind through hypnosis.

Hundreds of fliers telling of the youngster's disappearance, sent by the parents, hang in restaurants, motels, truck stops and police stations across the state and beyond.

There are 286 missing persons in Iowa today, according to the Division of Criminal Investigation. Of that number 12 are on the agency's endangered list, cases in which the DCI suspects foul play is involved. Only one of them is a juvenile: John David Gosch.

Said Gerald Shanahan, DCI chief, "We haven't had a case like this. Usually, when there are missing persons, you have something to go on. The most striking thing here is the lack of evidence."

But there is a growing feeling among investigators now that the youngster is alive, although they say there is no basis for that belief. The reason suggested DCI Special Agent

Chuck Wood and West Des Moines Detective Sgt. Lyle McKinney, who have coordinated the investigation, is that the many searches have produced nothing. If there was a body to be found, by this time something likely would have turned up.

The National Unidentified Dead file, organized and maintained by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation at Denver, has 766 entries from 43 states. Three of the entries are from Iowa; one from Clinton, another from Rock Rapids, the third from Des

GOSCH

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b6  
b7c

# Blue car, mystery man elude Gosch probes

## GOSCH

*Continued from Page One*

Moines. All three are unknown dead women.

Michael Olson, who supervises the file, said that 16 of the unknown dead are under 18 but none of the descriptions matches Johnny Gosch.

What is known to have happened Sept. 5 has been run and rerun hundreds of times by investigators.

### A Long Block

Gosch, who was planning to go to the lake with his parents that Labor Day weekend, got up, got his wagon and left his home at 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines, cutting across the yards of neighbors to Ashworth Roads. He walked along Ashworth to the newspaper drop, a long block away at Forty-second Street and Ashworth.

A witness, who also picked up newspapers at the drop a little later, said he saw a blue car parked at the corner, its lights off. The driver was sitting on the passenger side talking to Gosch. According to other carriers, the car had been in the area for some 30 minutes, and the driver asked Gosch for directions before the youngster reached the paper drop.

The man wanted to know how to get to Eighty-sixth Street, which is Twenty-second Street in West Des Moines, a busy north-south thoroughfare 1½ miles away, with some all-night gas stations.

According to parents Noreen and John Gosch, who have hired a private investigator, their son told another carrier later, "That man [in the car] is really weird."

The witness, who asked that his name be withheld, said he tried to give directions to the man at the corner after Gosch gave up.

### "Beady Eyes"

In a recent interview with The Register, he said, "This guy was high. When you're drunk you're drowsy. He was wide awake and I could see his beady eyes staring into the horizon."

The witness said he stood three feet from the man and could see him plainly.

His face lit by soft light, the man inside the car had dark features and a

mustache and was about 40 years old.

"He looked like he was disgusted or bit miffed," the witness said. The man then slid across the seat, started the car, and turned on the lights. The witness then noticed the car bore a Warren County license plate and remembers "more than one of the figures" on the plate. The car made a U-turn and bolted east on Ashworth.

"They put me under hypnosis," he said. "I told them all I knew. Nothing more has come to my mind, but if it does, the police will know."

After the brief conversation at the corner, Gosch walked north on Forty-second with his newspaper-laden wagon to begin his deliveries.

Another witness — one of four police have been able to find — said he saw a man walk out of the shadows at Forty-second Street, near the paper drop, and talk to Gosch.

The youngster crossed the street, parked his wagon at the corner of Marcourt Lane, a block from where he picked up the papers. It's the same corner where Gosch usually left his wagon while he delivered papers to subscribers on Francrest Circle.

At that time, police said, other carriers saw Gosch sitting in his wagon. A resident near the corner saw a car roll up to the corner — but didn't see the boy.

At 7:45 a.m. the phone rang at the Gosch home. Gosch's customers wanted to know where their papers were. The mystery had begun.

### Loose Ends

Detective McKinney and DCI Agent Wood, sitting in the West Des Moines Police Department's squad room among stacks of reports, photos and cards involving the Gosch case, said they were retracing the investigation, looking for loose ends. There are still calls that must be checked.

"You can go in any direction with this thing," McKinney sighed. "You can say it's a runaway. You can say it's an abduction. You can say the driver of the blue car is involved. You could say that he isn't, that he was only in the neighborhood, and hasn't come forward because he doesn't want people to know he was there. Maybe he was fooling around."

"You can say the boy is alive, you

can say he's dead, although I have a gut feeling he's alive. We just don't know."

"You can say he was taken by a cult, but the information we've picked up indicates most people are in a cult because they want to be. They are not snatched up at random."

McKinney added, "I've never worked a case this long without having a good strong feeling about it."

Police checked every all-night establishment in the metropolitan area. They had witnesses pore over mug shots of known sex offenders, and followed leads from more than a dozen of the 80-plus psychics who've contacted the family.

Investigators have also attempted to determine whether Gosch was snared by a child pornography ring.

Little is known about the mysterious man who stepped out of the shadows — seen by only one witness — before Gosch parked his wagon.

A few days after he disappeared, police were sent to a coin-operated car wash at 3511 Harding Road where there was a report of a large pool of blood in one of the stalls. It proved to be a blood type other than Gosch's.

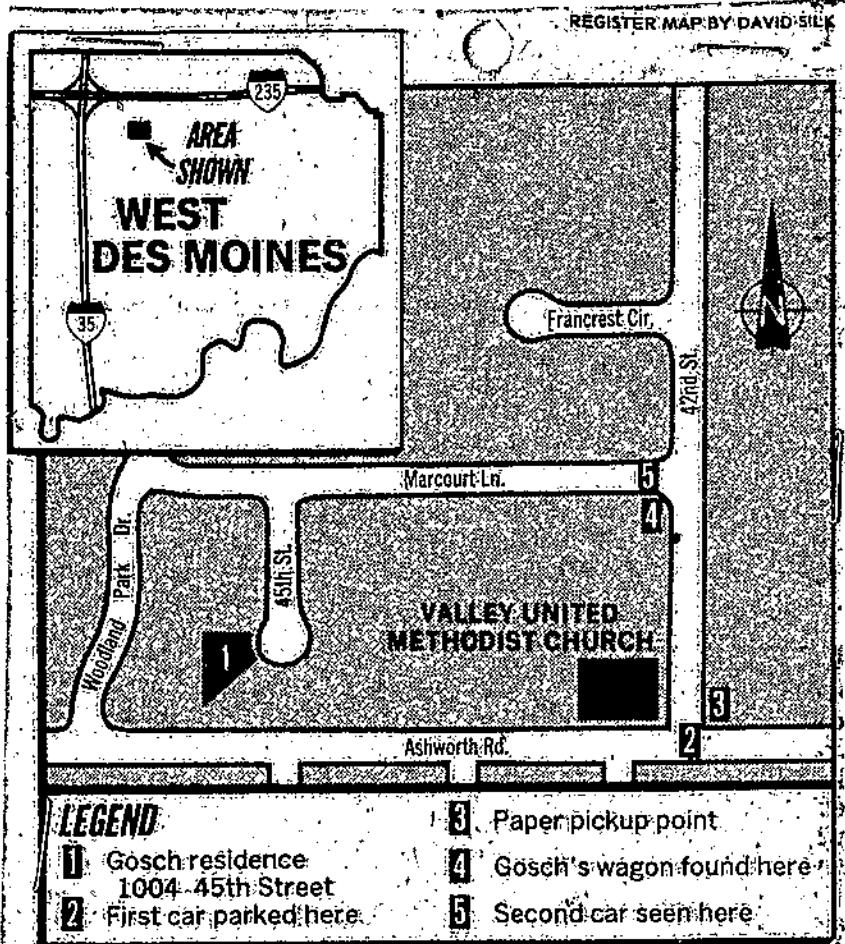
### Calls from Toronto

Two individuals, in separate calls from Toronto, Ontario, Canada, reported seeing Gosch. Police there were asked to check. They found a youngster in a hospital who looked like Gosch, but wasn't.

But of all the leads the toughest to follow has been that of the two cars seen the morning the boy disappeared.

The first, driven by the man who asked for directions, is described as a light-blue over dark-blue mid-size late model car. The second car, seen where Gosch left his wagon, is said to be a silver Ford Fairmont, a black stripe along its side.

Hundreds of registrations were checked, said McKinney. West Des Moines police, helped by the Des Moines police and the Polk County sheriff's office and agencies elsewhere in the state, went to Ford

**LEGEND**

- 1** Gosch residence  
1004-45th Street
- 2** First car parked here
- 3** Paper pickup point
- 4** Gosch's wagon found here
- 5** Second car seen here

The above map shows the West Des Moines area from which John Gosch Jr. disappeared last September.

Fairmont owners and asked to look at their cars.

"We had lot of them and everyone was cooperative," McKinney said.

Could the two cars actually be one? Could the witnesses, none of whom saw both cars, have given different descriptions of the same car? Could the driver have circled the area and returned to the corner where Gosch had parked his wagon?

McKinney said he doesn't know, but he doesn't want to eliminate either car. "As far as I'm concerned we have two cars," he said.

The investigation is also being carried on privately by the Gosch through Dennis Whelan, a private detective from Omaha.

It was Whelan who doggedly searched for the missing Walter Todd Bequette of Carter Lake, who had vanished from the streets of Omaha in 1974. Bequette, then 13, had gone into Omaha to meet his mother.

Whelan found Bequette 17½ months later living with a 30-year-old, 320-pound homosexual who had a history of child molesting. They were in Clarkson, Wash. Bequette, now married and living in Texas, had been lured into the man's car with the promise of a mini-bike. His father said he had been drugged and beaten.

What could have happened to Johnny Gosch?

With the known details of the case, The Register called two investigators outside the state who are experienced in finding missing persons.

Lt. William Mahon, commanding officer of the missing persons section of the Chicago Police Department, said it appears to be an abduction.

"It doesn't sound like the abduction for pornography or by a homosexual. But that doesn't mean it isn't involved. My feeling is that he's alive. If he met up with foul play, you would have found something at this time."

The cars are important, but maybe they don't mean anything. I would still have my people checking every lead possible, every small lead. We've had cases we haven't given up on in seven years. You may stir up somebody who forgot something or somebody who was reluctant to talk to you at one time or another."

Detective John Carroll of the

missing persons section of the Los Angeles Police Department suggested that Gosch may have been stalked by someone who knew who he was or his habits.

"It might be someone in the community who takes note of the youngster's habits. The person probably knew something about this youngster," he said.

"On the hopeful side, someone could have abducted him because they wanted a child; or the bad side, this person did his deed and disposed of the body."

"There is a chance the boy will never be found. I lean more toward the positive thinking that something will come up."

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 14 1983

POLICE

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 2  
 Omaha World-Herald  
 Omaha, Nebraska

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date: 3/7/83  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;

Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

# Missing Children Linked With Pornography

By Fred Thomas

COUNCIL BLUFFS BUREAU

National pornography groups have been recruiting children in Iowa and Nebraska, a Council Bluffs audience was told Sunday.

The groups seek children for sexual escapades, for child pornography films and for sale to molesters, according to Beverly Bequette, mother of a boy held by a convicted sex offender for 18 months, and Dennis Whelan, Omaha private detective.

"Child" pornographers have been linked to incidents in Council Bluffs, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Carter Lake, Omaha and Lincoln, Mrs. Bequette and Whelan said.

Mrs. Bequette commented in a talk and Whelan in an interview at the Bluffs VFW Hall at a meeting of a Council Bluffs citizens band radio operator's group, Aid in Distress.

#### Missing Carrier

Mrs. Bequette described the ordeal of her son, Todd, who was abducted nine years ago at age 13, and told of the current search for Johnny Gosch, a 13-year-old West Des Moines newspaper carrier who has been missing for six months.

Whelan tracked Todd Bequette and the man who abducted him, Terry Roy Holman, throughout the west for 18 months before locating them in Clarkson, Wash.

Whelan, who also is searching for Johnny Gosch, said he thinks the boy was taken by two men involved in a sex-for-profit venture.

Since there is no evidence Johnny is dead, Whelan said, he thinks the boy is



Buttons sold... to raise funds.

...being used and abused!"

Mrs. Bequette has become chairman of a metropolitan Omaha chapter of the Help Find Johnny Gosch organization. Members are selling candy and buttons to raise money to send fliers around the nation in hopes someone will recognize Johnny.

"I'm reliving all over again what happened to my son in helping find Johnny," Mrs. Bequette of Carter Lake, said.

#### Sought Help

When Todd disappeared in downtown Omaha, Mrs. Bequette said, she and her husband, Jerry, tried unsuccessfully to get police, the FBI and news media to look for him. She said police told her Todd probably had run away, the FBI said it lacked authority to search for him, and the media said his disappearance wasn't newsworthy.

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI-OMAHA	

b2c

Families of missing children everywhere encounter the same answers, she said, yet, today there are more than 5,000 missing youngsters in the nation.

Some children, she charged, are involved with the Massachusetts-based North American Man-Boy Love Organization, which lobbies for the right of adults to have sex with children, and the California-based Rene Guyon Society, whose motto is "Sex by eight or it's too late."

#### Tougher Action

To combat child pornography and protect children, Mrs. Bequette said:

—Prosecutors and courts should get tougher with child molesters, realizing that almost all of them one will prey on more children once they are freed from prison.

—Police agencies should look for missing children at least as diligently as they look for stolen cars, and should place missing children and child molesters on a national computer network so apprehension is easier.

—Parents should have their children fingerprinted and should keep other records for use in case their youngster is abducted. She favored fingerprinting pupils at school and keeping prints there.

—Parents and teachers should warn children about the ways molesters entice children to go with them. Molesters use such ruses as "help me find my puppy" or "your dad has been taken to hospital and your mom sent me to pick you up to go see him."

—Laws should be changed so county attorneys could not dismiss charges against child molesters without consult-

ing with judges, victims and the victims' parents.

#### Charges Dismissed

The Douglas County Attorney's Office dismissed kidnapping charges against Holman without notifying the Bequettes. Holman, 37, is scheduled for release in July from a prison in Oklahoma, where he is serving a sentence in another case.

Last week, the County Attorney's Office said it dismissed the charge to spare Todd Bequette the trauma of testifying before a jury about what happened to him.

Noting that the County Attorney's Office dismissed the charge without studying Holman's criminal record, Todd's parents passed out copies Sunday of what they said is the "FBI rap sheet" on Holman.

It shows that Holman has been charged with sex offenses dating to 1959. One charge was filed in Tulsa, Okla., the day before Holman picked up Todd in Omaha, the record shows.

Two women in the audience of about 30 said they had been the victims of sex attacks by their fathers when they were children. The mental scars have never healed, and children molested by strangers face the same lifelong anguish, the women said.

Circulated at the meeting were photographs of two teen-age Council Bluffs girls who people in the audience said are among three girls missing about 10 days.

The metro chapter of the Johnny Gosch organization is headquartered at the Bequettes' business, Handicap Mobility, 511 E. Locust St., Carter Lake 63110.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8

West Des Moines Express  
West Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 3/3/83

Edition: Thursday

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIMCharacter: POSSIBLE KIDNAPING  
OR

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

**Missing...****SEPTEMBER 1982**

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

5 OCTOBER 1982

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

6 NOVEMBER 1982

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

19 3 DECEMBER 1982

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

26 14 JANUARY 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

21 5 FEBRUARY 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

28 12 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

19 2 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

26 9 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

16 6 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

23/30 13 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

20 6 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

27 13 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

20 21 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

27 28 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

28 29 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

31 30 MARCH 1983

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

7A-1053-151

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>DW</i>	FILED <i>DW</i>
MAR 1 1983	
FBI - DES MOINES	

# Six Months Later

by Ron Sampson

This week-end marks an anniversary that John and Noreen Gosch hoped that they would never see. It has now been six months since they last saw their son, Johnny.

Six months of agony, anxiety and education. Six months of searches, interviews, speaking engagements to awareness groups, endless leads, psychic readings and the on-going fund-raising efforts to pay for fliers and the private investigator.

Twenty-six week-ends of endless waiting for a phone call, a letter, a sighting. But as of Tuesday ... nothing. Absolutely nothing.

For nearly a year, Johnny Gosch had carried the evening Tribune and the Sunday Register in his neighborhood in West Des Moines. While he usually

did his evening route himself, his father, John had gotten accustomed to going with his son on Sundays as the previous winter was especially tough and he drove the car from drive to drive since sidewalks were all but buried.

Looking back, John says that this particular Sunday, Labor Day week-end, September 4, 1982, was one of about five that he had missed.

Little did the Gosches suspect when they got the first phone call complaining of no paper at 7:45 that they were embarking on a journey from which they would never return. Their lives and the lives of many around them would change, in every practical sense, forever.

John immediately felt the urgency of the situation. His son had

Continued Page 13

# Missing...

## Six Months Later

From Page 8

always been dependable in carrying out his duties. So, he and several neighbor friends took the papers and delivered them to each home asking each customer if they had seen Johnny that morning. None had.

The first and only break in the case came when a fellow carrier identified a car that had stopped Johnny twice that morning at the paper pick-up point. But thus far, that car identification has failed to turn up any suspects.

On that Sunday, West Des Moines' police hesitated in calling the case an abduction. They preferred to refer to Johnny as a runaway and implemented a 72-hour waiting period to wait for Johnny to return. The Gosches still feel that this was a vital error, allowing precious minutes to tick away.

In the meantime, the Gosches organized friends in and around the Des Moines area to search various locations. On Labor Day some 1,500 people answered the request for volunteers to search areas of Polk County.

But it has now been six months. During that time the Gosches have been at odds with the West Des Moines Police and the Polk County Attorney's

office for the ineptness of the handling of the case at the beginning. A month after the disappearance of Johnny the Gosches hired a private investigator who to this date has the only set of fingerprints and hair samples of Johnny. In his frustration, the local police chief publicly said he was sick and tired of Noreen Gosch and cursed the pair calling them "...damned stupid people."

This type of attitude marked the battle-lines early. Unfortunately for Johnny, the effort to find him has not been a unified labor.

On September 7, the Gosches sent the information and \$50 to Child Find for inclusion in the national publication of missing children. Unfortunately, Child Find only prints every six months with no supplement fliers so Johnny is still not included in the book.

But, for the Gosches, obstacles and education has become a way of life.

When the local police effort began to cool, they went ahead and hired a private detective. After four days of looking into the case and the Gosches, Dennis Whelan of Council Bluffs - Omaha began his investigation. In him, they found a new source of strength in the parents of a boy he recovered after an 18-month

imprisonment with a homosexual.

When searches and volunteer groups began to lose interest, the Gosches formed an organization complete with an attorney, C.P.A., board of directors and workers to help raise funds and organize awareness meetings. The first meeting of Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc. was on Johnny's 13th birthday, November 12, 1982.

When leads of cult-abductions led nowhere, the Gosches would chase down clues given out by some of the 77 psychics who have contacted the couple.

When the local media began to look at the case with a skeptical eye rather than an objective eye, the Gosches decided that this was the kind of help that they did not need and they avoided comments.

All in all, the experiences since the abduction have been equally horrifying in proportion. Friends have deserted the couple, the police and the media have improperly used their position to falsely sway public opinion... and still the original problem persists. A boy is missing.

Whatever the circumstance of Johnny's disappearance, the effort should be no different. Law enforcement

agencies owe it to their employers to not be presumptuous or prejudging but to follow first-hand information and material towards the end result. Granted, lack of expertise in a matter like this is understandable. It is a case like no other. So it should be treated as such.

At a recent speaking engagement at the Tenth Annual Conference For Juvenile Justice in South Carolina, the Gosches shared the podium with noted author and expert Ken Wooden for a speech to over 600 judges and lawmen in attendance. At the meeting, the Gosches learned as much as they shared. The gory details of child pornography, prostitution, molestation and murder. They learned that there are currently 1.8 million missing persons in the U.S. They learned that there are 3,000 Jane and John Does buried each year.

Of course, we all know how the Gosches feel. We've heard them speak on television, in person, in the newspaper. We've bought their candy bars and listened to them plead for their son and defend their refusals to break down. And as we tick our children in at night we think how it seems like just yesterday that Johnny Gosch was taken away. We then shake our heads, forget about the situation until the next person brings it up in conversation or we read a story in the paper.



Ken Wooden, left, stands with John and Noreen Gosch at the podium they shared at the Tenth Annual Conference of Juvenile Justice Judges and Lawmen in South Carolina last week. This weekend marks the six-month anniversary of their son Johnny's disappearance. To date, there have been no clues.

But, the story goes on and on and on for the Gosches. Every waking and sleeping moment. They never escape it. They know that they never will. They know that as each day passes their chances of finding the son safe get slimmer and slimmer. They also

know that they must hold themselves together and continue a methodic and sane search... because if they don't, nobody else will.

Yes, Sunday marks the anniversary of the

abduction of Johnny Gosch... and also the abduction of his parents — John and Noreen Gosch. And if you feel that you and your family haven't been violated by this abduction... well, you're wrong.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 10  
West Des Moines Express  
West Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 3/10/83

Edition: Thursday

Title: UNSUB; JOHN DAVID  
GOSCH - VICTIMCharacter: POSSIBLE KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7A-1053  
Submitting Office: Omaha

# New Fliers Sent Out In Johnny Gosch Search Effort

This is the second printing of fliers to be sent out by the effort in finding Johnny Gosch. Since it had been six months, the private investigator advised the Gosches to have new ones sent out since many law agencies as well as gas stations, stores and other public locations may have taken the old ones down. The cost for the first 40,000 of this printing was donated by an Omaha Council Bluffs area printer with addressing and mailing donated by a group spear-headed by Jerry and Bev Bequette of Carter Lake. That same group sold 75 cases of the candy bars last week used in raising funds for the search. Each candy bar is good for covering the expense of ten fliers. The time, paper, postage and personnel volunteered for this would total at least \$4,000 and would not have been possible for the financially strapped Help Find Johnny Gosch group.

7A-1053-152

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 1 1983	
FBI-OMAHA	

# MISSING

JOHN DAVID GOSCH



Taken 80/81 School Year



Taken Febr. '82



Taken 81/82 School Year

**DESCRIPTION:** Age: 13 years old, D.O.B.: Nov. 12, 1969, Ht.: 5'7"  
Wt.: 145 lbs. Hair: light brown, Eyes: blue, Complexion: medium.  
Teeth: gaps between front teeth, Shoe Size: 9½-10, Marks/Scars:  
freckles, large birthmark upper left chest, horseshoe shaped scar on  
tongue, large lower lip. Stature: At 13 years old, John has the  
physical appearance of a boy 15 or older.

John David Gosch was last seen on Sunday, September 5, 1982 at approximately 6:05 A.M. He was believed to have been abducted when starting his paper route at 42nd and Marguerite Lane in West Des Moines, Iowa.

John was believed to have been wearing a white sweat shirt with the words KIM'S ACADEMY on the back of it along with black warm up pants and blue rubber thongs. Missing also with John is his yellow paperbag and wire cutters.

## REWARD

A \$25,000.00 REWARD has been offered for the safe return of John David Gosch in addition to a \$10,000.00 REWARD for information leading to his whereabouts.

Anyone having information to John's whereabouts, please call collect:  
THE WHELAN DETECTIVE AGENCY at (402) 592-7710 or (402) 551-5221 or  
John's parents JOHN and NOREEN GOSCH at (515) 225-7456.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6 Omaha World-Herald  
Omaha, NE

Date: 9/21/83

Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

# *Johnny Gosch's Parents See Similarities in Bellevue Disappearance*

By Al Frisbie

World-Herald Staff Writer

The cases are similar — so similar that law enforcement officers investigating the disappearance of 13-year-old Danny Joe Eberle have noted the resemblances.

Johnny Gosch, a newspaper carrier, was 12 when he disappeared from a Des Moines street corner. His parents have determined he was abducted about 6 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 5, 1982.

Danny Eberle is 13, a World-Herald carrier whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Eberle, live at 119 Valley View Drive in Bellevue. He was last seen at 5:30 a.m. Sunday when he picked up his papers and started out on his 70-customer route.

### 'Understand the Stages'

The similarity of the situations has not escaped the attention of Johnny's parents, John and Noreen Gosch of Des Moines. They are still actively seeking their son — and they are among the relatively few who can actually know the torment Danny's parents are experiencing now.

"We have talked to the Eberles

twice," Mrs. Gosch said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "We have told them we would like to come over to be with them if they would care to have us. Mrs. Eberle has told me, 'You do understand the stages we are going through, don't you?'"

Mrs. Gosch, 39, said some of those stages, in addition to grief, include anger as lead after lead fails; "You worry about the safety of your other children," she said. "You wonder how you can hang on for one more hour or one more day."

She said the Eberles told her that Monday night's rain and Tuesday's cold weather added to their concern for their son's well-being. "The same thing happened to us," she said. "The day Johnny disappeared the weather turned cold and rainy. It just tears you up inside."

### Openness Favored

Mrs. Gosch said she has advised the Eberles to talk to the news media, to issue a plea for the return of their son — and to remain as strong as possible.

She said the Bellevue parents have said they will consider the advice, although Eberle told a World-Herald

7-1053-239

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI—OMAHA	

JK/H

FBI/DOJ

reporter Monday that he had been advised not to talk with reporters for the time being.

Mrs. Gosch said she favors openness with the press because it is the only way to keep the story — and public awareness of the search for her son — alive.

Strength, even in the face of continued heartbreak and disappointment, is important, she said. "Whenever I feel I am losing control of my composure," she said, "I ask myself, 'Can I be effective and help my son if I fall apart?' The answer is no. My husband feels the same way."

Unlike the Eberles, the Gosches know their son was taken physically. There were eye-witnesses to the abduction, Mrs. Gosch said. While abduction is a distinct possibility in Danny's disappearance, law enforcement officials say they have not ruled out other factors. In Danny's case, there apparently was no witness if an abduction was committed.

Mrs. Gosch said more than a year after her son's disappearance, a Des Moines woman "did come forward and identify" a composite drawing the

family had made from descriptions provided of one of the abductors. She said private investigators are checking the man's background now.

"Maybe if the two cases are connected in any way, we will be able to help find Danny Eberle, too," she said. She said she thinks there might be a connection.

6 a.m. on Sundays  
"We have done our homework," she said. "This sort of thing happens all over the country, and it often happens around 6 a.m. on Sundays. In many instances, the children who disappear are blond, blue-eyed and between 11 and 15 years old."

Mrs. Gosch believes authorities need to look closer into child pornography operations in the disappearances of children. And she and her husband still nurture strong hopes and beliefs that they ultimately will regain their son.

"We feel he is still alive," she says. "No clothing — not even his newspaper bag — were found. There was nothing to indicate a violent act."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOI/PA

DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

FOI/PA# 1615669-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 1

Page 27 ~ Duplicate;

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# Kidnapped boy reportedly seen in public

By the Chicago Tribune

**DES MOINES,** Iowa — Johnny Gosch, the Des Moines newboy kidnapped from his delivery route 18 months ago, has made several desperate attempts to identify himself to strangers and to flee his captors, according to his family and private investigators.

Officials at the Investigative Research Agency, the Chicago firm hired by the family, are reluctant to divulge specific locations and details of the incidents for fear of endangering the boy. But an agency spokesman who has been involved in the case said the pattern traced by detectives showed that Johnny, 14, was taken along a "south-southwest" route from Des Moines.

According to the spokesman, who asked not to be named, investigators believe that on "four or five occasions" Johnny actually identified himself to members of the public.

One instance, he said, occurred in a southwestern state last March when a boy believed to be Johnny ran up to a woman near a small shopping center just off a highway and said, "Please, help me; I'm John David Gosch."

Another time, he said, an on-duty police officer was chasing a suspect through a building when the boy broke away again, according to the woman, and the two grappled. "Again,

and they crossed a nearby field.

She said she thought they were entering the rear of an apartment complex, but, the investigator said, they apparently circled back to their vehicle and drove away.

Though the woman alerted police, they found nothing and thought it was just a father disciplining his son, the investigator said. It wasn't until the woman saw Johnny's picture on a television show about missing children last October that she made the connection, he said.

He said that in another instance, at a gas station-truck stop in the West late last summer, a youth managed to edge up to some customers "and say something on the order of 'I'm Johnny Gosch' before a man came up and took him away."

On another occasion, about a month after he was kidnapped on Sept. 5, 1982, a telephone operator received a call through a long-distance exchange from a boy who identified himself as Johnny, his mother said.

"It was a young boy. He was pleading for help. He said he was Johnny, and was trying to [get] home," Mrs. Gosch said. "I told him, 'I'm sorry, but we're not able to help you.' I told him, 'If you're in danger, call the police.' I told him, 'If you're in danger, call somebody.' I told him, 'I'm sorry, but we're not able to help you.'

Cathy Jones of the Chicago Tribune

through: once last August, when his older brother and sister answered the phone and heard him plead for help and for his mother before someone quickly slammed down the receiver, and once last Wednesday, when Mrs. Gosch says she received three calls, each less than 40 seconds long, from her son.

"He said, 'This is Johnny.' I said, 'Are you all right?' He said, 'No.' His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, 'Where are you?' And someone

slammed down the phone."

On most of the occasions when Johnny has presumably been sighted, the investigator said, he seemed to be in the custody of two men and "pretty much under wraps."

One of the kidnappers, investigators believe, is a middle-age man with dark eyes, black hair and a mustache who witnesses have said spoke to Johnny just minutes before he disappeared as he began his route for the Des Moines Register.

AP Wirephoto

# SUNDAY Sun-Times

CHICAGO JANUARY 29, 1984 \$1.00

## Mom's plea to son's captors

Sixteen months ago, a 12-year-old boy was kidnapped from the streets of West Des Moines, Iowa.

The boy, Johnny Gosch, reportedly was seen in a southwestern city, trying unsuccessfully to escape from his captors.

His mother, Noreen, says:

"Now that we know for certain he's alive—and I'd like you to print this—we just pray that whoever took him will reconsider, have mercy and release him."

"We love our son, and we want him back."

Details on Page 10



Lt. Joseph P. Mahoney, head of Chicago's missing persons section. (Sun-Times Photo by Kathleen Reave)

## Youth tried to flee captors, mom told

By William Braden

Johnny Gosch, victim of one of the nation's most notorious child kidnappings, reportedly has been sighted alive with his abductors.

His mother, Noreen, told the Sun-Times she was notified Wednesday that the FBI and a Chicago detective agency have confirmed a report that the boy tried to escape from his captors in a major Southwestern city.

Johnny was 12 when he was abducted in West Des Moines, Iowa, by two men who pulled him into a car while he was delivering newspapers the morning of Sept. 6, 1982. His parents' heroic efforts to find him have received national publicity and an outpouring of support.

### 'Please help me'

Mrs. Gosch said a woman on March 2 saw two men chasing a boy down a street in a large city that investigators have asked this newspaper not to identify. She added:

"The boy ran up to the woman and said, 'Please, lady, help me. My name is John David Gosch.' At that point, one of the men grabbed him, twisted his arm behind his back, and dragged him away."

Mrs. Gosch said the woman reported the incident to police, who dismissed it as probably a "family situation." But the woman remained deeply troubled—and then she saw Johnny's photograph on television last October during the airing of "Adam," a drama based on the kidnap-murder of 6-year-old Adam Walsh.

The woman recognized him at once, said Mrs. Gosch. "She went to the authorities again. And it

took a while. But eventually the news got to us. We put our private detectives on it, and—with the co-operation of the FBI—we got the report. It was Johnny. And he's still alive."

"We and the FBI checked it out," said a spokesman for the Investigative Research Agency, 1921 N. Harlem. "And we're both convinced it positively was Johnny. So now we start all over again, backtracking from there."

An FBI spokesman in Washington, D.C., said the agency cannot comment on an ongoing investigation and declined to confirm or deny the report.

"I have mixed emotions now," said Mrs. Gosch. "Yes, I heard he was still alive. But I also heard the men grabbed him a second time. And my thoughts are, what did they do to him for trying to get away? You lie awake in the middle of the night and you wonder, what have they done to him by now?"

"Parents whose children die experience tragedy. Those whose children are found murdered experience horror, tragedy and a lot of pain. But to have the case go on and on for months has an unusual kind of stress that could literally kill a person. A lot of parents just fall apart. They resort to drugs and alcohol to relieve the pain. I've been told 90 percent of the families end up in divorce."

"My husband and I are not the same people who met and fell in love and got married. This situation has forced us to be extremely assertive and downright aggressive, to fight for our child. Those are not the qualities we saw in each other in the beginning. Now we've had to reassess each other and get acquainted with two new hu-

# Kidnapped boy

## alive?

JOHN DAVID GOSCH



Taken 80/81 School Year

man beings—and reach out for each other instead of a bottle, reach out for each other instead of walking away. Because if we give up, who's going to look for Johnny?

"Now that we know for certain he's alive—and I'd like you to print this—we just pray that whoever took him will reconsider, have mercy and release him. We love our son and we want him back."

Mrs. Gosch and her husband, John, both 40, are the parents of two other children now in college. They have founded a non-profit corporation. They sponsor abduction awareness programs. To help finance private detectives and mailings of fliers, they have sold 18,000 candy bars with Johnny's picture on the wrapper.

### Vast problem

Their search for their son has dramatized the plight of missing children—and the shortcomings of law enforcement agencies.

More than 1 million children are reported missing every year. Most are runaways and many are ab-



Taken Feb. '82



Taken 81/82 School Year

ducted by parents. The vast majority return home within a few days. But it's believed more than 50,000 are abducted by strangers, and perhaps 2,500 are murdered. Nobody knows for sure. That's part of the problem.

The Gosches were outraged when, they said, their local police chief refused at first to treat Johnny's disappearance as an abduction and delayed in alerting other jurisdictions—despite the testimony of five eyewitnesses.

Johnny's name eventual-

ly was entered in the National Crime Information Center computer. Under the 1982 Missing Children Act, parents can ask the FBI to register their children with the NCIC if local authorities refuse to do so. But that doesn't automatically bring in the FBI.

"There's a misconception," said Lt. Joseph P. Mahoney, head of Chicago's missing persons section. "If a juvenile is in NCIC, people think some agent picks up his hat and his attache case and goes out looking for him. But it



These are two composite drawings of one of Johnny Gosch's alleged abductors.



Noreen and John Gosch speak to a St. Louis audience about the National Child Victim Network last Monday. (Photo for the Sun-Times by John G. Kropf)

# MISSING

SUNDAY SUN-TIMES JANUARY 29, 1984

doesn't work that way."

Unless there is supportive evidence of an abduction within FBI jurisdiction, the name simply remains on file—and maybe pops up someday when the juvenile surfaces somewhere, or is found dead.

Last year, 11,329 juveniles were reported missing in Chicago (6,055 girls and 5,274 boys). Of those, 59 girls and 17 boys are still missing. One 16-year-old boy was found murdered.

Chicago's missing persons operation has been reorganized and computerized since the 1979 conviction of multiple killer John W. Gacy.

When any juvenile is reported missing here now, said Mahoney, the beat officer on the scene notifies the section's hot desk and the information is entered in the hot-desk computer. All children of "tender years" (through age 13) and all juveniles believed endangered also are immediately entered in the section's storage and information retrieval system computer (STAIRS) and in NCIC. All other juveniles are entered in both STAIRS and NCIC if they have remained missing for seven days.

#### Provides links

"They stay in STAIRS forever," said Mahoney, "even after they're found. And we can go through browsing, looking for patterns and connections, to see if there are any cross threads to these missings."

The Gosches are grateful for NCIC. They hope Johnny might pop up someday, somewhere. But they don't think it's enough. That's why they were in St. Louis last Monday—along with Adam Walsh's father, John Walsh—to watch the unveiling of the National Child Victim Network.

The network is an ultra-sophisticated computer system that child advocate Kenneth Wooden hopes to see installed eventually in 26 major airport cities, allowing police departments

to gather, process and share detailed information on missing juveniles. Its development was initiated with seed money from theRalston Purina Co. in St. Louis.

"NCIC was devised in the late '60s," said Wooden, executive director of the National Coalition for Children's Justice. "It's a coal burner compared to our system."

Wooden is roving the country filming a series of programs, the first two to air Feb. 23 and March 1 on the ABC News magazine "20/20." He has interviewed more than a dozen convicted child killers and hundreds of molesters.

"I'm going to the experts," he said.

And what makes them what they are?

#### Victimized

"I don't want to pose as an authority," said Wooden. "We're operating in total ignorance and there's no scientific evidence. But most of these people were molested as kids."

"There was a New York study of 1,286 molesters and 89 percent of them were molested as kids. Twenty-five percent were molested by women. Because of the macho image that gave them, it was like an achievement. But looking back now, the key was turned. Once you turn that key of pleasure, any way you cut it there's excitement, the unknown. And they're programmed for later, to become molesters themselves."

# Johnny may have been sighted

Missing West Des Moines paper boy Johnny Gosch may have been sighted in a large southwestern city last March, his parents were notified last week.

Both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a Chicago detective agency have confirmed a report from a woman who said she saw Johnny when he tried to escape from two men.

The name of the city where he was sighted was not named for security reasons.

According to the report, the woman was leaving a convenience store as a boy came running up to her and said, "Please help me lady, my name is John David Gosch." However, two men following him grabbed him, twisted his arm behind his back and dragged him away.

When the woman reported the incident to the police, they dismissed it as a "family incident."

Several months later, when the woman was watching the television production of "Adam," the story of the abduction and murder of 6 year-old Adam Walsh, she recognized Johnny's photograph when it was among the pictures of missing children flashed on the screen at the program's conclusion.

She went back to the authorities, and later work by the FBI and the Chicago detective agency seemed to confirm that the boy was Johnny.

His parents, John and Noreen Gosch, said they hope that whoever took their son will reconsider and release him unharmed.

Since their son's disappearance, the Gosches have been in the forefront of efforts to make others aware of child abductions.

They are also pushing for changes in Iowa law to help protect children and to require quicker searches by law enforcement agencies when children are reported missing.

The Gosches also recently had Johnny's name entered in the National Crime Information Center computer. Under the 1982 Missing Children Act, parents can ask the FBI to register their children with the NCIC if local authorities refuse to do so.

Johnny's grandparents are John and Natalie Regan of rural Calamus.



**When the National Child Victim Network computer was unveiled in St. Louis, Mo. recently, among those present were (from left) Dr. Kenneth Wooden, director of the National Coalition for Children's Justice, John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines, John Walsh, father of Adam Walsh, whose abduction murder was featured in a network television special; and Denny Abbot, director of the Adam Walsh Center**

# Gosches attend computer unveiling

## New network will help find missing kids

John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines, parents of missing paper boy Johnny Gosch, were in St. Louis, Mo. last week for the unveiling of the National Child Victim Network, a computer network designed to help locate missing children.

Also in St. Louis for the event was John Walsh, the father of Adam Walsh, whose abduction and murder was the subject of a special network television production last fall.

The new network to find missing children was designed by Dr. Kenneth Wooden, director of the National Coalition for Children's Justice and George Gallup Jr. of the Gallup Poll.

Wooden, who was an investigative reporter for CBS at the Jonestown massacre, said his interest in missing children began several years ago after he wrote a book on child abuse

and discovered a "huge national cobweb" missing and murdered children.

The computer network will have four lines serving four different sections of the nation especially encompassing 26 major metropolitan areas in which missing children are most likely to be found.

Companies that helped fund the research for the computer include Ralston Purina, Westinghouse Electric, Atlantic Richfield and Eli Lilly and Company.

Wooden has also appealed to the White House for help in generating further private funding.

The problem of missing and abducted children continues to receive national attention as early in February ABC television's "20-20" program will feature a section on the problem, some which was filmed in West Des Moines. Time magazine is also planning a report on the problem.

For their efforts, the Gosches recently received a letter from Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, which said, "It is gratifying to know that people do care and are willing to pull together to address this serious problem. You and the others working on behalf of missing children are certainly examples to all."



Johnny Gosch

*We need a centralized, national clearinghouse with information about which children are missing . . .*

## Missing children

By Charles Grassley

U.S. Senator from Iowa

Nearly 1½ years have passed since 12-year-old Johnny Gosch disappeared from his West Des Moines paper route one early Sunday morning, and local police efforts to track the missing child have reached dead end.

Every year at least 100,000 children like Johnny disappear from carnivals, playgrounds, grocery stores, or, as in one California case, a hospital delivery room. While some are abducted by parents waging bitter custody battles, experts say strangers snatch 20,000 to 50,000 children annually.

Local authorities shoulder the first responsibility for recovering missing youngsters, but often the victims are quickly shuttled across state lines to be abused and exploited in underground crime rings. Kidnappers murder approximately 80 percent of the victims within two days, according to a Florida study.

One father of a Manhattan child missing for nearly four years complains that local officials lack the manpower and resources to effectively track kidnapped children.

"Trying to handle cases like ours on a local level is a tremendous impediment," says Stan Patz, father of kidnapped son Etan. "We need a centralized, national clearinghouse with information about which children are missing and how they

can be identified."

To establish just such a data bank, I and a number of other senators have co-sponsored the Missing Children Assistance Act, currently pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill would create a national toll-free hotline as well as a federal clearinghouse for more efficient interstate information swap. No government agency currently offers these critical services.

The bill's intent mirrors other legislation I've introduced creating a similar data bank to record the names of persons arrested or convicted of child molestation. Ten percent of abducted children are sexually abused by molesters who sometimes can be teachers, daycare sitters or social workers, says John Rabun, director of the missing child unit in Louisville, Ky.

"The credentials of these people aren't checked closely enough when they are hired," says Rabun. "I get tired of arresting my colleagues."

Protecting our children from adults seeking to exploit, abuse and even murder them warrants a comprehensive national effort to update tracking methods.

A California professor who has studied the problem, Michael Agopian, says, "We find more stolen cars and stray animals than missing children each year."

Surely our children deserve the same investigative network already in place for property theft.

## Stueland favors support for quick searches

State Representative Vic Stueland (R-Grand Mound) reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening laws pertaining to child-stealing and child-molesting as he was making plans to return to the Iowa Legislature, which reconvened Monday, Jan. 9 in Des Moines.

There is apparently wide spread support among lawmakers for requiring police to immediately investigate cases of missing

children, Stueland said.

At present, some law enforcement agencies require a 72-hour waiting period before starting any search under the assumption that missing children may be runaways who will return.

However, the case of missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, who is the grandson of Stueland constituents John and Natalie Regan of Calamus, has helped inspire support for changing that rule.

Young Gosch disappeared while delivering papers over a year ago, and since then his parents, John and Noreen Gosch, have been pushing for legislation to eliminate the 72-hour waiting period.

Stueland also favors stiffening the penalties for people who are convicted of abusing or molesting children.

"I hope there's no law for early parole for these people who violate children," he said. "It bothers kids, scares them, and we're not sure of the effect this will have on another generation."

Stueland also said that personal letters to

lawmakers are more effective than petitions. He urged interested people to write to Governor Bransford, Lt. Gov. Bob Anderson, Speaker of the House Don Avenson, Minority Leader Del Stromer, and Senate leaders Cal Hultman and Lowell Jenkins.

House File  
# 2122

Introduced by Vic Stueland

# USA TODAY

NOREEN GOSCH

Guest columnist

10/14/82

## 'Forget our son? How dare they?'

WEST DES MOINES, Ia. — Johnny Gosch got up as usual at 5:30 a.m. on Sept. 5, 1982, to deliver his Sunday newspapers. On his way to the paper drop, a man in a car stopped him to ask directions.

Minutes later, a second man on foot approached Johnny from out of the shadows and walked him down the block. A short while later a car door was heard to slam, and a car was seen running a stop sign.

By 6:05 a.m. Johnny was gone. My husband and I were awakened by people who had not received their newspapers. It was then our entire world shattered. Our son was gone — kidnapped. Four witnesses reported the events to us and the police. We found Johnny's wagon full of newspapers on a corner two blocks from our home.

We immediately called the police. Our son was 12 years old. It was the policy of the police department to fill out a report and then wait up to 72 hours to see if the missing child was a runaway. We begged the police chief to act and to bring in extra assistance. He refused, saying he wanted to solve the case himself.

The chief had been investigated six months earlier for negligence and alcoholism on the job. We knew what we were up against. We contacted the media, did interviews, distributed Johnny's picture, posted a reward and called surrounding police departments to be sure they knew about Johnny — only to find that they knew nothing. Our police department had not told them.

We then hired a private investigator. To pay for it we sold candy bars and had garage sales and benefit dances. They say money isn't everything, but it becomes everything when

Noreen Gosch is a secretary, yoga teacher and mother of three.

your child is kidnapped.

In this country we have foundations to save baby seals, whales and battleships. But there's no help for missing children and their parents. It is the burden of the parents alone.

Johnny had been entered into the computer as "missing." We struggled for a year to have him reclassified as "abducted" — a vital difference, since it changes the way police pursue leads. Not until another newsboy in our area vanished under the same circumstances was our demand finally granted.

"We have foundations to save baby seals . . . But there's no help for missing children"

But it should have been automatic. We should not have had to beg. The police were negligent. We filed a complaint with the U.S. Justice Department, only to be informed that due to the age of our son, the way police respond is a judgment call; they presume the child is a runaway.

Our son is a victim of a very sick crime. Yet one law enforcement officer had the gall to say to us, "Why don't you have another baby and forget about this whole thing?"

Forget about our son? Forget about finding him? How dare they. He may be alive. For many weeks the police told us, "We have no crime." But we still have no son.



Bob Greene

## Where Is Johnny Gosch?

I don't think there is a more compelling story in the country than the case of Johnny Gosch, the young West Des Moines, Iowa, boy who was kidnapped from his newspaper route on Sept. 5, 1982 — and who may still be held captive by the man or men who took him.

Johnny Gosch was 12 on that day. He left the house with his red wagon and his dog Gretchen to deliver Sunday-morning Des Moines Registers. The dog returned home without him. His wagon, full of newspapers, was found on a street corner. Johnny was simply gone.

His mother and father, John and Noreen Gosch, started an exhaustive campaign to try to find the boy. A composite drawing of a man suspected of being the kidnapper was distributed nationally. Enough funds were raised to establish a \$100,000 reward for Johnny's safe return. As awful as all kidnap cases are, this one was especially wrenching.

And then, last month, a development occurred that made

who had ended the calls.

Mrs. Gosch said that there have been at least 15 sightings of her son in the southwest United States since he was kidnapped. According to her, on several occasions he has tried to identify himself to members of the public.

Last March, she said, a boy believed to be Johnny ran up to a woman near a small shopping center just off a highway and said, "Please help me; I'm John David Gosch."

The woman reportedly said that a man chased the boy, pinned his arm behind him, and led him away. The boy broke away again; the man captured him again. The woman thought it was a father disciplining his son. Months later, when the woman saw Johnny's picture on a television show about missing children, she realized who he had been.

In another instance, according to Mrs. Gosch and private investigators, a boy edged up to some customers at a gas-station truck stop and said something to the effect of "I'm Johnny Gosch" before a man retrieved him and took him away.

The thought that the boy is still out there, being held captive by the man or men who apparently took him from his newspaper route, is so chilling that reporters and law enforcement officers who usually try to stay emotionally detached from their stories and cases find themselves dwelling on the details of this one, and trying to figure out what more they can do to help.

It is every parent's nightmare — the idea of his or her child in desperate trouble, begging for rescue, apparently being moved at will around the country to avoid detection. It makes one start thinking of wild, dramatic attempts at solution: If President Reagan could hold up Johnny's picture at one of his live press conferences, so everyone in the country could be made aware of his situation; if every newspaper in the country could run his picture on Page One...

The thoughts go on and on. Investigators say that Johnny apparently is in the custody of two men and "pretty much under wraps." Johnny has had two birthdays since he was kidnapped; he is now 14. One of the kidnappers, according to investigators, may be a middle-aged man with dark eyes, black hair and a moustache — the same man witnesses have said they saw talking to Johnny in West Des Moines minutes before he was taken.

In the meantime, all that the rest of us can do is continue to keep our eyes open. Those of us in the newspaper business can print Johnny's picture one more time, and hope it sticks in people's memories. Although most newspapers that carry my column do not normally use photographs with it, I'd like to ask editors to publish Johnny's photo with today's column.

And we can remember the words his mother says she heard coming over the phone:

"Just get me out of here, Mom. They've got me here, just get me out..."



Johnny Gosch

the story of Johnny Gosch almost unbearable to contemplate.

According to his mother, Johnny called home three times.

As Mrs. Gosch told reporters in West Des Moines, the first call came just after midnight on a Wednesday.

"I said, 'Who is this?'" Mrs. Gosch recalled. "I thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long-distance."

"He said, 'This is Johnny.' I had been dragging myself up the crying. I asked, 'Where are you?' and someone slammed down the phone."

In another call a few minutes later, Mrs. Gosch said, her son begged her to rescue him.

"He was pleading for help," she said. "He said, 'Just get me out of here, Mom. They've got me here, just get me out...'"

"That's how I knew it was Johnny. His voice went through ranges of emotion, and when you hear someone throughout their lives, hear their voices change at different levels, then you recognize it again. His voice has deepened a little since he was kidnapped, but I know it was Johnny. I have no doubt."

As in the first call, the next two ended with the phone being hung up. Each call lasted less than 40 seconds; Mrs. Gosch said she assumed it was the kidnappers

Traber

From Page 1

## Parents urge missing child legislation

By Janet Cawley

THE PARENTS of a missing Iowa boy and the father of a Florida youngster who was kidnaped and murdered two years ago joined Tuesday in calling for congressional approval of a Missing Children's Assistance Act.

The legislation, sponsored by U.S. Rep. Paul Simon (D., Ill.), would set up a federally funded, toll-free hotline for tips on the whereabouts of missing children and would create a national resource center to provide technical and scientific information to parents of missing children and local agencies.

John Gosch, whose son, Johnny, then 12, vanished from his Des Moines paper route 18 months ago, said the search for a missing child now is "a full-time battle for the parents. . . . We even had to send out our own missing person flyers."

Gosch held up a chocolate bar with Johnny's picture on it, one of 100,000 that, he says, have been sold as part of a fundraising effort to find Johnny. "If someone had told us two years ago our son's life depended on [selling] a candy bar or a button, we wouldn't have believed it," he said. "I think it's deplorable that parents have to go through things like that."

"WHEN JOHNNY disappeared, our world fell apart," said his wife, Noreen. "What we weren't prepared for was that the system was not ready to recover him."

Parents "are placed constantly on the offensive," she said. "We have to



Tribune photo by Jerry Tomasette

During a press conference in Chicago Tuesday, Noreen and John Gosch display a picture of their son Johnny who vanished 18 months ago while on his Des Moines paper route. "When Johnny disappeared, our world fell apart," said his mother.

sight to do anything."

Johnny made three brief calls to the family last week, each lasting less than 40 seconds, she said. Her son was crying, she said, and when she tried to ask where he was, "someone slammed down the phone." She called the calls "our first decent break."

Simon said his office was following through on the attempts to trace the calls with the FBI and officials of

AT&T, "and we're trying to see rapid action. If not, the officers of AT&T will be called before a congressional subcommittee to testify."

JOHN WALSH, whose 6-year-old son, Adam, was kidnaped from a Hollywood, Fla., shopping mall and slain in 1981, said, "We can put a man on the moon, but we don't know how many of our kids are missing, how many are the victims of foul play."

# Chicago Tribune

\$1.00

Sunday, March 18, 1984

Final  
Edition

## Johnny's parents wait for one last call

By Janet Cawley  
and Lynn Emmerman  
*Chicago Tribune*

TULSA—The husky, freckle-faced boy seemed to appear out of nowhere. Gasping for breath, he charged toward a woman who was about to cross the street.

The boy began to stammer and choke as he approached her on the street corner. With great effort, he pushed out the words: "Please, lady, will you help me? My name is John David Gosch."

Startled, the woman asked what was wrong. Before the boy could tell her, two men raced to the corner where they were standing. One grabbed the boy and pinned his arms behind his back. With a threatening glare, the other backed the woman off the sidewalk and onto the scrubby grass. Ignoring the woman's protests, the men dragged the boy away.

The woman said the strange encounter troubled her for months. Then, in November, a television program on missing children confirmed her worst suspicions and propelled her to action. According to that program, John David Gosch had been abducted a block from his suburban home on Labor Day weekend of 1982 while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

AS THE BOY'S face flashed across her television screen, the woman, a mother of five who lives in a small town outside Tulsa, said she jotted down the telephone number that appeared under his photo. In minutes she was talking to R.L. Christenson, a private detective the boy's parents had hired to find their youngest son.

Her call provided yet another lead in the painful, frustrating search for the missing blond, gap-toothed boy, now 14 years old.

According to Christenson, Johnny has been spotted by 15 people in 15 locations, mostly in the South and Southwest. Christenson provided The Tribune with information on five of those sightings on the condition that the identities of the "sighters" be protected.

But interviews with the witnesses and visits to the locations showed that only two of the five sightings were traceable and that only one person, the woman in Tulsa, saw a boy who could have been Johnny.

THE FRUSTRATION of sightings that have proved fruitless, the days and nights of waiting, searching and hoping, and the mystery of Johnny's disappearance are linked by one common denominator: the telephone.

It was a telephone call that first told John and Noreen Gosch that something was wrong, that their 12-

Continued on page 16, col. 1. Johnny Gosch, abdu



# Viewpoints

Friday, March 9, 1984

The Dallas Morning News

## Where is Johnny Gosch?

By BOB GREENE

I DON'T think there is a more compelling story in the country than the case of Johnny Gosch, the young West Des Moines, Iowa, boy, who was kidnapped from his newspaper route Sept. 5, 1982, and who may still be held captive by the man or men who took him.



Johnny was 12 that day. He left the house with his red wagon and his dog Gretchen to deliver Sunday-morning *Des Moines Registers*. The dog returned home without him. His wagon, full of newspapers, was found on a street corner. Johnny was simply gone.

HIS MOTHER AND father, John and Noreen Gosch, started an exhaustive campaign to try to find the boy. A composite drawing of a man suspected of being the kidnapper was distributed nationally. Enough funds were raised to establish a \$10,000 reward for Johnny's safe return. As awful as all kidnap cases are, this one was especially wrench-

ing. And then, last month, a development occurred that made the story of Johnny almost unbearable to contemplate.

According to his mother, Johnny called home three times.

As Mrs. Gosch told reporters in West Des Moines, the first call came just after midnight on a Wednesday.

"I said, 'Who is this?'" Mrs. Gosch recalled. "I thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long-distance."

He said, "This is Johnny." I said, "Are you all right?" He said, "No." His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, "Where are you?" and someone slammed down the phone.



John David Gosch  
Associated Press

In another call a few minutes later, Mrs. Gosch said, her son begged her to rescue him.

"He was pleading for help," she said. "He said, 'Just get me out of here, Mom. They've got me here.'

"That's how I knew it was Johnny. His voice went through ranges of emotion, and when you hear someone through their lives, hear their voices change at different levels, then you recognize it again. His voice has deepened a little since he was kidnapped, but I know it was Johnny. I have no doubt."

As in the first call, the next two ended with the phone being hung up. Each call lasted less than 40 seconds. Mrs. Gosch said she assumed it was the kidnappers who had ended the calls.

Mrs. Gosch said there have been at least 15 sightings of her son in the Southwest United States since he was kidnapped. According to her, on several occasions he has tried to identify himself to members of the public.

LAST MARCH, SHE said, a boy believed to be Johnny ran up to a woman near a small shopping center just off a highway and said, "Please help me; I'm John David Gosch."

The woman reportedly said a man chased the boy, pinned his arm behind him, and led him away. The boy broke away again; the man captured him again. The woman

thought it was a father disciplining his son. Months later, when the woman saw Johnny's picture on a television show about missing children, she realized who he had been.

In another instance, according to Mrs. Gosch and private investigators, a boy edged up to some customers at a gas-station truck stop and said something to the effect of "I'm Johnny Gosch" before a man retrieved him and took him away.

The thought the boy is still out there, being held captive by the man or men who apparently took him from his newspaper route, is so chilling reporters and law enforcement officials who usually try to stay emotionally detached from their stories and cases find themselves dwelling on the details of this one, and trying to figure out what more they can do to help.

IT IS EVERY parent's nightmare — the idea of his or her child in desperate trouble, begging for rescue, apparently being moved at will around the country to avoid detection. It makes one start thinking of wild, dramatic attempts at solution: if President Reagan could hold up Johnny's picture at one of his live press conferences, so everyone in the country could be made aware of his situation; if every newspaper in the country could run his picture on Page One...

The thoughts go on and on. Investigators say Johnny apparently is in the custody of two men and "pretty much under wraps." Johnny has had two birthdays since he was kidnapped; he is now 14. One of the kidnappers, according to investigators, may be a middle-aged man with dark eyes, black hair and a mustache, the same man witnesses have said they saw talking to Johnny in West Des Moines minutes before he was taken.

In the meantime, all the rest of us can do is continue to keep our eyes open. Those of us in the newspaper business can print Johnny's picture one more time, and hope it sticks in people's memories. Although most newspapers that carry my column do not normally use photographs with it, I'd like to ask editors to publish Johnny's photo with today's column.

We can remember the words his mother says she heard coming over the phone:

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## Viewpoints

Editor: Rena Pederson

*Viewpoints is a daily forum for a wide variety of views and opinions and does not necessarily reflect the editorial opinion of The Dallas Morning News. Submit queries to Viewpoints, The Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, Dallas, Texas 75265. Phone: 745-8259*

Bob Greene writes for The Chicago Tribune

# FBI will continue case no matter what

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch Jr. says the FBI has "bungled" the case so badly it ought to drop its investigation, but an FBI spokesman said the agency would continue looking for the boy.

"It's not possible for an individual to just pull the FBI off of a federal investigation," said Ed Gooderman, special agent assigned to the agency's public affairs office in Washington, D.C.

"We don't go to citizens as local authorities do, asking them to sign a complaint. When an allegation is made that a federal violation has been made, we go out and check the facts and then we take the facts to the U.S. Attorney's office," Gooderman said.

Gooderman made the comments after Noreen Gosch publicly asked the FBI to end its investigation into the 20-month-long disappearance of her son, now 14 years old.

"They have bungled it so badly we feel it has jeopardized his life more than a dozen times," said Mrs. Gosch in a telephone interview from her home. "We would rather have them just back out."

She said her husband, John, formally made the request Thursday night to the FBI in Washington.

Herb Hawkins, special agent in charge of FBI operations in Iowa and Nebraska, said he had not heard of the request until being told of it by a reporter. But he said as far as he was concerned, the investigation would continue.

"We have a missing child, the circumstances of which are still a mystery," he said in a telephone interview from his office in Omaha, Neb. "We are operating under the assumption that foul play was involved. Based on that we are continuing on the case."

Johnny Gosch, then age 12, disappeared early Sept. 5, 1982 while preparing to deliver his Des Moines Register newspaper route in an upper middle-income neighborhood near his home. Witnesses said he was last seen talking to a man in a blue car.

Since their son first disappeared, the Gosches have been highly critical of what they said was inaction and indifference on the part of state and local authorities. Their lobbying helped passage of a bill in the Iowa Legislature requiring immediate police action on reports of missing children.

Mrs. Gosch charged Friday that the FBI has been slow to pursue leads in the case, has given the family conflicting stories about the availability of telephone records needed to trace calls believed to be from her son and has been negligent in its handling of other aspects of the investigation.

There have been delays "on every single thing that we ask them to do," she charged, and that has allowed her son's captors to get away.

For example, she said, the Gosches' private investigator received a collect call last September from a man claiming to have Johnny and telling the family: "You'll never get him back."

The FBI traced that call to a phone booth in Richardson, Utah, Mrs. Gosch said. "By the time they got there, it was 14 days later and he was gone," she said.

"Due to the lack of response and the bungling on many occasions, we no longer can trust the FBI to act on our behalf," she said.

Since Johnny's disappearance, the Gosches have used private investigators in the search for their son. Mrs. Gosch said a private agency in Chicago is doing "very, very good"

work on the case.

"They have helped us ten times more than any other police agency in the country," she said.

Hawkins denied Mrs. Gosch's claim that the FBI has been slow in following up leads.

"We've worked as fast as we possibly can inside the environmental limitations—that is the ability of other entities to produce what we're asking for," he said. "Some of these leads take time, they don't just occur within seconds. That's just the cold, hard facts of it."

He acknowledged it has been difficult to obtain phone records that may shed some light on three phone calls Mrs. Gosch said she received Feb. 22 from an individual she believed was her son. She has asked the FBI to obtain records of all long-distance phone calls made in the country around that date, Hawkins said.

"All we can do is ask the phone company, make certain requests," he said. "If AT&T (American Telephone and Telegraph) decides that the request is not attainable because of their physical limitations, then there's

nothing we can do about it. We cannot order any corporation in this country to do what we want them to do."

An AT&T spokesman on Friday explained that despite the increasing use of computers in the industry, it is still hard and sometimes impossible to track long-distance phone calls.

"There's no way to do it, there's no common computer," said Don Goff, state governmental relations manager for Iowa at AT&T's offices in Chicago.

# Gosches ask FBI to cease looking for son

By The Associated Press

The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch says the FBI has "bungled" the case so badly that it ought to drop its investigation, but an FBI spokesman said the agency will continue looking for the boy.

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Bob Greene

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In the meantime, all that the rest of us can do is continue to keep our eyes open. Those of us in the newspaper business can print Johnny's picture one more time, and hope it sticks in people's memories. Although most newspapers that carry my column do not normally use photographs with it, I'd like to ask editors to publish Johnny's photo with today's column.

And we can remember the words his mother says she heard coming over the phone:

"Just get me out of here, Mom. They've got me here, just get me out..."

The Chicago Tribune



Noreen Gosch, who said she received phone calls from her missing son Johnny [right]: "I told him that we loved him."

## Missing Iowa boy: 'Mom, get me out'

By Janet Cawley:  
Chicago Tribune

**DES MOINES**—For the last 18 months, since her young son disappeared, the phone has been a lifeline and a nemesis for Noreen Gosch. It rings constantly in her comfortable suburban home, bringing queries and information from the curious, the helpful, the concerned and, occasionally, the malicious.

Early Wednesday, she says, it brought the voice of her kidnaped son. "He said, 'Mom?'"

"I said, 'Who is this? I thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long distance. He said, 'This is Johnny.' I said, 'Are you all right?' He said, 'No.' His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, 'Where are you?' and someone slammed down the phone."

In all, she says, there were three calls, each less than 40 seconds long and just minutes apart, from her 14-year-old son, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1932, while starting out on his Sunday delivery route for the Des Moines Register newspaper.

"HE WAS PLEADING for help," she said. "He said, 'Just get me out of here, Mom.'

"They've got me here, just get me out."

"That's how I knew it was Johnny. His voice went through

ranges of emotion, and when you hear someone through their lives, hear their voices change at different levels, then you recognize it again. His voice has deepened a little since he was kidnaped, but I know it was Johnny. I have no doubt."

Gosch said she phoned police after the first of the three calls. They later told her they could not trace the calls, she said, but could confirm they were long distance.

Said Lt. Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines Police Department, "We're still working on it. You have to be determined."

**FOR MRS. GOSCH**, a 40-year-old secretary, and her husband, John, also 40, a salesman for a chemical company, the calls were the latest in an anguishing series of events they cling to as proof their son is alive.

According to Mrs. Gosch, there have been 15 sightings of Johnny in the Southwest United States—she declines to be more specific—between March and September last year. She says private investigators hired by the family have verified the sightings. In most cases, Johnny appeared to be in the custody of two men "who had him under their thumbs."

According to FBI Special Agent Robert Keane in Des Moines, there have been a number of "sightings" in the Southwest. "We have done investigations, but we never have been able to say

Continued on page 2, col. 1

# MISSING

Continued from page 1

positively it was him. We would show people his picture, and they would say, "Yes, that's the person they saw, but by then he wasn't there anymore!"

In addition, Mrs. Gosch says, Johnny called home once before, last Aug. 5. His 19-year-old brother and 20-year-old sister, both home from college, picked up phone extensions simultaneously, and "they heard him keep asking for Mom. He said he needed help. Then someone slammed down the phone. The whole call didn't last longer than 45 seconds."

JUST A MONTH later, Mrs. Gosch said she and a private detective received identical calls a few minutes apart. "It was a man. He said, 'I have Johnny. He's alive. You can look for him all you want, but I'm never going to give him back.'"

The Gosches believe the person who abducted Johnny was a middle-age man with dark eyes, black hair and a mustache. The man was seen talking to the boy as he began his delivery route. A friend of Johnny's said the youngster appeared to be giving directions to the man, who was driving a blue car.

"Why would he let Johnny call?" Mrs. Gosch asked. "I have a distinct feeling the calls were made for a

reason. Maybe to let us know he's alive, maybe to throw us off the track. I'm also told a lot of times kidnapers do this for a kind of sadistic pleasure.

"Earlier that evening, Johnny's picture was shown on national television on a program about the Senate hearings on missing children. Maybe the kidnaper or Johnny saw his picture and that's what led to the call," she said.

The Gosches are determined their son will, somehow, be returned to them. "I feel confident we'll find him, recover him," Mrs. Gosch said. Outside the brick family home in the affluent suburb of West Des Moines, a porch light burns constantly for Johnny ("We've been through five bulbs"), and a phone is never more than inches away. The Gosches employ an answering service to take calls when they're not home, and Mrs. Gosch always carries a pager with her.

Life without Johnny, she says, has been "horrible." For the last two years, the family has not been able to celebrate Christmas. "The older kids just said they didn't want to. And in a way, it was just easier for us than to try to go through the whole rigamarole and torture.

"You know in this whole situation, my husband and I had jobs, friends, a purpose to keep us busy. But Johnny was ripped away from those things. It's 10 times worse for him. He's the victim."

**Comment**

# 'Just get me out of here, Mom'

By BOB GREENE  
Chicago Tribune Service

**I** don't think there is a more compelling story in the country than the case of Johnny Gosch, the young West Des Moines, Iowa, boy who was kidnapped from his newspaper route on Sept. 5, 1982 — and who may still be held captive by the man or men who took him.

Johnny Gosch was 12 on that day. He left the house with his red wagon and his dog Gretchen to deliver Sunday-morning Des Moines Registers. The dog returned home without him. His wagon, full of newspapers, was found on a street corner. Johnny was simply gone.

His mother and father, John and Noreen Gosch, started an exhaustive campaign to try to find the boy. A composite drawing of a man suspected of being the kid-



Johnny Gosch, pictured here at age 12, was kidnapped from his West Des Moines, Iowa, newspaper route in 1982.

napper was distributed nationally. Enough funds were raised to establish a \$100,000 reward for Johnny's safe return. As awful as all kidnap cases are, this one was especially wrenching.

And then, last month, a development occurred that made the story of Johnny Gosch almost unbearable to contemplate.

According to his mother, Johnny called home three times.

As Mrs. Gosch told reporters in West Des Moines, the first call came just after midnight on a Wednesday.

"I said, 'Who is this?'" Mrs. Gosch recalled. "I thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long-distance."

"He said, 'This is Johnny.' I said, 'Are you all right?' He said, 'No.' His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, 'Where are you?' and someone slammed down the phone."

In another call a few minutes later, Mrs. Gosch said, her son begged her to rescue him.

"He was pleading for help," she said. "He said, 'Just get me out of here, Mom. They've got me here, just get me out...'"

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Please turn to JOHNNY / SG

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten signature]*

# Kidnapped son calls home: ‘He was pleading for help’

JOHNNY /from IG.

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Mrs. Gosch said that there have been at least 15 sightings of her son in the Southwest United States since he was kidnapped. According to her, on several occasions he has tried to identify himself to members of the public.

Last March, she said, a boy believed to be Johnny ran up to a woman near a small shopping center just off a highway and said, “Please help me; I’m John David Gosch.”

The woman reportedly said that a man chased the boy, pinned his arm behind him, and led him away. The boy broke away again; the man captured him again. The woman thought it was a father disciplining his son. Months later, when the woman saw Johnny’s picture on a television show about missing children, she realized who he had been.

In another instance, according to Mrs. Gosch and private investigators, a boy edged up to some customers at a gas-station truck stop and said something to the effect of

“He was pleading for help. He said, ‘Just get me out of here, Mom. They’ve got me here, just get me out . . .’”

Noreen Gosch

“I’m Johnny Gosch” before a man retrieved him and took him away.

The thought that the boy is still out there, being held captive by the man or men who apparently took him from his newspaper route, is so chilling that reporters and law enforcement officials who usually try to stay emotionally detached from their stories and cases find themselves dwelling on the details of this one, and trying to figure out what more they can do to help.

It is every parent’s nightmare — the idea of his or her child in desperate trouble, begging for rescue, apparently being moved at will around the country to avoid detection. It makes one start thinking of wild, dramatic attempts at solution. If President Reagan could hold up Johnny’s picture at one of his live press conferences, so everyone in the country could be made aware of his situation; if every newspaper in the country could run his picture on Page One . . .

The thoughts go on and on. Investigators say that Johnny ap-

parently is in the custody of two men and “pretty much under wraps.” Johnny has had two birthdays since he was kidnapped; he is now 14. One of the kidnappers, according to investigators, may be a middle-aged man with dark eyes, black hair and a moustache — the same man witnesses have said they saw talking to Johnny in West Des Moines minutes before he was taken.

In the meantime, all that the rest of us can do is continue to keep our eyes open. Those of us in the newspaper business can print Johnny’s picture one more time, and hope it sticks in people’s memories. Although most newspapers that carry my column do not normally use photographs with it, I’d like to ask editors to publish Johnny’s photo with today’s column.

And we can remember the words his mother says she heard coming over the phone:

“Just get me out of here, Mom. They’ve got me here, just get me out . . .”



## HELP FIND JOHNNY GOSCH, INC.

Box 65332  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265  
515-244-9181

### "PRESS RELEASE"

#### "IN DEFENSE OF CHILDREN"

SINCE THE KIDNAPPING OF JOHNNY GOSCH, HIS PARENTS [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] HAVE LEAD A NATION WIDE SEARCH FOR THEIR SON. THEY HAVE  
BEEN FORCED TO HIRE PRIVATE DETECTIVES IF THEY EVER HOPE TO SEE  
THEIR SON AGAIN. THE SYSTEM IS NOT YET DEVELOPED FULLY TO LOCATE  
THESE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED BY A STRANGER.

b6  
b7c

DURING THEIR SEARCH THEY HAVE UNCOVERED A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION  
AND HAVE WORKED WITH THE EXPERTS IN THE COUNTRY. THE NATIONAL  
COALITION FOR CHILDRENS JUSTICE AND THE JUSTICE DEPT. IN WASHINGTON,  
D.C. THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO THE PUBLIC THE INFORMATION WHICH JUST  
MAY SAVE CHILDRENS LIVES.

DURING THEIR PROGRAM " IN DEFENSE OF CHILDREN", THEY WILL SHARE  
SOME OF THE THINGS WHICH HAVE HAPPENED IN THEIR CASE, WHAT IS  
HAPPENING ON THE NATIONAL SCOPE WHICH IS AFFECTING IOWA CHILDREN,  
HOW PARENTS CAN PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN. ALSO THEY WILL SHARE  
WHAT THEY HAVE DONE ABOUT PROPER LEGISLATION TO PROTECT OTHER CHILDREN.  
THEY WILL EXPLAIN WHAT IS A PEDOPHILE ( A PERSON WHO WOULD COMMIT  
THIS TYPE OF CRIME.) THEIR PROGRAM IS TO "ENLIGHTEN NOT FRIGHTEN".  
THEY WILL GIVE THE "LURES" WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING USED BY THE  
ABDUCTORS. THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL TO THE SAFETY OF EVERY CHILD.

WE HAVE FOUNDATIONS FOR "SAVE THE BABY SEALS... WHALES.... BATTLESHIPS"  
IN THIS COUNTRY .... "IT IS TIME FOR A FOUNDATION TO SAVE OUR CHILDREN.  
TO THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ASSISTED US, WE FEEL WE MUST SHARE  
THIS INFORMATION AND TRY TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM FOR ALL CHILDREN.

WE REMAIN " IN DEFENSE OF CHILDREN"

b6  
b7c

# 'Just get me out of here, Mom'

By BOB GREENE  
Chicago Tribune Service

I don't think there is a more compelling story in the country than the case of Johnny Gosch, the young West Des Moines, Iowa, boy who was kidnapped from his newspaper route on Sept. 5, 1982 — and who may still be held captive by the man or men who took him.

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And then, last month, a development occurred that made the story of Johnny Gosch almost unbearable to confront.

"According to his mother, Johnny called home three times."

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"I said, 'Who is this?'" Mrs. Gosch recalled. "I thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long-distance."

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Please turn to JOHNNY / 5G

JOHNNY / from 1G to 5G  
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(It is every parent's nightmare — the idea of his or her child in desperate trouble, begging for rescue, apparently being moved at will around the country to avoid detection.) It makes one start thinking of wild, dramatic attempts at solution: If President Reagan could hold up Johnny's picture at one of his live press conferences, so everyone in the country could be made aware of his situation; if every newspaper in the country could run his picture on Page One.

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June 1983

# INCORPORATED NAMBLA IBUILDIVIN

vol. 4 n. 5

Rec'd  
7-14-83  
(P) 663

VOICE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOCIATION



## DEATH OF A BOY-LOVER

The bulletin is reprinting below major portions of an article about a California Highway Patrol Officer who recently committed suicide rather than face charges of fondling young boys. The story itself is poignant, even tragic. Similar stories could be told about men and boys who have committed, or attempted to commit, suicide in the face of the vengeful hatred of the state for cross-generational love.

What is unusual about this story is its sensitive, even sympathetic, treatment of the subject. Far more common — alas! — are the hysterical, bigoted, and scapegoat-mongering articles written on the basis of false and self-serving press releases from the FBI and police agencies, designed to portray man-boy love as evil incarnate. The apparently loving, caring friendships of Paul Garrett are in fact typical and confirm what NAMBLA has been saying about them in its four volume half

years of existence. The real criminals here are the Det. Lloyd Martin and the Judiennes Denzen-Gertlers of this world who thrive on such tragedies, and indeed, make them possible. NAMBLA is trying to raise public consciousness about such relationships, and hopes that its efforts will continue to find an echo in thoughtful media coverage, as in this article.

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It is too late for Paul Garrett. He was a victim of anti-homosexual hysteria and arrogance, as are the thousands of boy-lovers in U.S. jails for their loving relationships with minor males, and the many boys who have been victimized and tortured by law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, there will be more victims, unless America wakes up and loves its able to triumph over hate and ignorance.



Paul Garrett

### IN MEMORIAM

## SACRAMENTO TIMES

By ANN JAPENGA

SACRAMENTO — For 10 years, California Highway Patrol Officer Paul Garrett was considered by his friends and colleagues to be "a good cop and a nice guy."

Then, on April 14, Garrett was arrested on charges of molesting three 6- and 7-year-old boys at the mobile home park where he lived.

The evening of his release from Sacramento County Jail on his own

recognizance, Garrett, 31, drove to his mother's house to tell her what had happened. His mother, a beauty parlor operator, was out playing bingo. Garrett emptied his pockets and left his arrest papers, checkbook, bankbook and wallet on the kitchen counter.

#### Left a Note

Then he began to write: "Mom, I guess I'd better leave you a note . . ."

That was as far as he got. He started a second note: "I love you. I'm sorry . . ."

Before leaving the house, Garrett removed a picture from the living room wall. It was his academy

graduation portrait, taken 10 years before.

Garrett got back in his car and drove south along the river road. Garrett had always loved the Sacramento River and had lived until recently on a 40-foot cruiser in the Freeport Marina. At a secluded spot near the town of Courtland, Garrett parked his car so that it was concealed behind a concrete bulk-

er. The last things Garrett did before he died of an overdose sometime around midnight was to hurl his academy portrait into the slow-moving water.

A number of fears must have assaulted Garrett while he sat on the river bank. One was the knowledge that both child molesters and cops are targets for violence by other inmates in prisons and jails. Another was the fear that he had tarnished the image of the CHP. And there also was the likelihood that he would lose the respect of his father, a man whom Garrett had spent his life trying to please.

But perhaps the most unbearable pressure Garrett faced was the nature of the alleged crime.

"Society feels that the child molester is the lowest person there is," said Lloyd Martin, retired founder of the LAPD Sexually Exploited Child Unit.

"In the public mind, you can't do anything worse," said CHP Lt. John O'Donnell, who was Garrett's commanding officer.

About the same time his body was

found,

We have received reports that the FBI has visited members of NAMBLA, asking about John Coch (see elsewhere in this issue).

If accosted or visited by the FBI, do not think you are dealing with reasonable people interested in determining the truth. You are dealing with the American equivalent (in methods and ethics) of the Soviet KGB. Since the emphasis is on the justification of thus-for squandered taxpayers' money, agents' salaries, etc., rather than on the finding of the truth, beware!

Be firm! Protect your right to privacy by cutting such encounters short. DO NOT SPEAK, EXCEPT FOR A REFUSAL TO SPEAK. REMEMBER, REFUSING TO TALK TO THE FBI IS NOT A CRIME, IT'S YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.

Read guidelines and detailed instructions in another part of this issue.

**NAMBLA ACCORDING  
TO CHARLES JURRIST**  
by David Thorstad — p. 6

## SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT NAMBLA

In our April issue, posters were urged to seek out appropriate media and place ads for NAMBLA. This appeal has already brought about concrete actions on the part of several posters. Nevertheless, many more volunteers are needed in this project. Too many boy-lovers and boys suffer from self-repression. As a support network, NAMBLA cannot do much good if they're own men and boys are not reached. Without wide, continued publicity, our effectiveness will be limited. Everyone is urged to join in this project. Please don't deviate from the following text:

### NORTH-AMERICAN MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOCIATION

For information, send \$1 to:  
NAMBLA, PO Box 174, New York, NY 10018

If you cannot afford to fund an ad, but feel you have discovered an important advertising medium, let us know. Also, do get back to us when you have placed your ad. Finally, research indicates that constant, repeated ads in a given medium give best results. If possible, choose the longest possible running periods for your ads.



## JOHN COSCH PHONE HOME!

NAMBLA has received an inquiry regarding the whereabouts of a missing Iowa youth, John Cosch, whose disappearance has generated considerable media attention. John is a 13-year-old youth of West Des Moines, who disappeared on September 5, 1982, while delivering newspapers.

NAMBLA firmly believes that youths should be allowed to determine whom they shall live with. At the same time, the request for our assistance has come in a unique form: a polite phone conversation between Brian McNaught (Boston mayor Kevin White's liaison to the gay and lesbian community) and NAMBLA spokesperson Brian Quinby.

The idea that NAMBLA would be well informed on runaways is both wrong and being used by the FBI against us. However, if anyone does know any runaways, suggest to him that he call the National Runaway Youth Hot Line (1-800-231-4946) to relieve anxiety at home and resolve the question about the conditions under which leaving occurred. The Hot Line is confidential and young people who use it can do so without being pressured into divulging any more information than they choose to.

## Feedback

Unless permission is specifically given to do otherwise, names of contributors to this column will not be printed. Letters will be identified by city and state only.

Opinions expressed in the feedback column do not necessarily reflect NAMBLA's positions. Letters are presented in the spirit of a free and uncensored form of ideas.

Dear folks,

Please put me on your subscription list for the newsletter.

Also, you might let that jerk-off from Pennsylvania who left the Childhood Sensuality Circle because they condemned "corporal punishment" know that his letter led me to find out their address and send off for their newsletter.

- In struggle,  
Laura Kethaway

Dear Bulletin persons:

As a suggestion, may I offer Nat M. Black a name change for his column BOYS IN THE MEDIA to CHICKEN TRACKS in memory of the late boy love publication HERMES. The CHICKEN TRACKS column, like much of the entire publication, was outright exploitation of the young. Its message was simple. Boys are objects. But, even a little further, the "correct" types of boys were objects.

Then, as now, in the minds of chicken hawks, boys are sex objects. Objects for jerkoff fantasies. Photos, teenybopper magazines and the like filling closet shelves under old piles of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS, only taken out to strengthen the boy-made god fantasy image.

What were/are the "correct" type of boys? The cute ones, of course.

99.99% of the time they have to be white, and by all means, CUTE! They appear in ads, on television, and in movies playing seductive little roles. Even more, the "correct" types are those who hint of their sexuality -- and the ultimate, those who show a glimpse of their flesh.

What chills go up my spine when I hear hawks who have seen movies such as PIXOTE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE, OVER THE EDGE, ABUSE, etc., and their only comments are those referring to which boys were beautiful or what skin scene they liked best. I'm not saying that I don't like skin. I love skin. I love boys who 'strut their stuff'. I love boys who are seductive and sexy, but more so I like boys as boys. The pedestal type image that spyglasses wielding, reinforced hawks maintain of youths is exploitative. It refuses to treat or deal with youths as they should be treated: equally, not as jerkoff fantasy boy gods.

Mr. Black's comments in his March 1983 column, and I quote, "I apologize that there was no coverage of underwear scenes in the movies. The Collective felt that such treatment of persons - boys or otherwise - is too demeaning and inconsistent with the philosophy of the organization." No apology here was needed. It seemed good the Collective finally said ENOUGH!

Also in that same column I became outraged when I read the closing paragraphs where Mr. Black spoke of a TV program involving young Gary Coleman and his experiences with a "child molester". The ending line of this section read, and I quote, "...but friends have commented what kind of taste could he have to go after Gary Coleman". I am not totally sure how to take this comment. Is it, Mr. Black, because Gary is black, a

hidget, or perhaps not as cute as some of the other television boy idols?

Perhaps Mr. Black has begun to feel the mood of intolerance towards such "journalism", since he has of late begun to insert little endorsement pieces such as "A liberal friend agrees" and "...as an educated friend said". Enough garbage! Just how "liberal" and "educated" are they to maintain such an exploitative view of young people?

Perhaps these types of columns offer a good example of the effects of our society's repression of boy lovers. There is, however, a solution. Stop wasting time scanning the TV for boy tools. Stop risking eye injury from key-hole peeking and stop wasting hundreds of dollars on supertelephoto lenses. Go out and meet these young people that are admired from afar. Meet them talk with them, and enjoy their company. It is amazing just how pleasant it is to meet and have a chance to enjoy the company of youths, especially for one who has always fantasized what it would be like to talk with one.

Mr. Black can do better than this. I have seen some really good writing from his machine. A lot of good things appear in some of his columns, but the chicken hawk materials have to go. Why not skip over the fantasy boy idol stuff and get to the real writing that you do so well, Mr. Black? That stuff is good!

-- David Groat

Editor's note: It is not in the spirit of the Collective to censor or diminish in any way the contribution of any of its members. Mr. Black's column on underwear scenes was evaluated at length. After the discussion was tabled, Mr. Black withdrew the column on his own accord.

# TRUCKERS' AID SOUGHT TO FIND MISSING BOY



Johnny Gosch, who was 12 when this picture was taken, has been sighted at least 15 times since he was kidnapped on September 5, 1982, while on his newspaper delivery route.

A year ago, he ran up to a woman in a small shopping center and pleaded for help. Another time, he stated his name to some customers at a truck stop.

The incident at the truck stop, plus additional speculation that the boy is traveling around the country in a truck, are reasons cited why truckers may be able to help in locating him.

Recently, his family reportedly received three calls, all lasting less than 40 seconds. All ended abruptly, but Mrs. Gosch believes that it was the voice of her son: "Just get me out of here, mom. They've got me here. Just get me out...."

One of the kidnappers may be a middle-aged man with black hair, a mustache and dark eyes.

A \$100,000.00 reward has been raised for his safe return.

Persons with information which may be helpful in the case are requested to call their local FBI office or phone the Gosch home directly at

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOI/PA

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**editorial**

# Give the children a chance

THE PARENTS of an abducted child tell this chilling story about the presence of evil in our world. They hired private detectives to help find their abducted son. When other avenues failed, the detectives finally contacted "the mob." They were informed that "the mob" refuses to traffic in children, although it knows what is going on. "The mob" would help, and if the boy were found, \$175,000 would be required.

The detectives went to a motel in Omaha, Neb., then were directed to the Kansas City airport and on to Houston. In Houston, they were blindfolded, driven for about 20 minutes and finally taken into a warehouse.

There an auction was in progress. On the block were 30 to 40 young boys, many of whom appeared to be sedated. The boys were sold for \$15,000 to \$30,000 each. Along with bidders from the U.S. were men from "oil-rich countries."

The detectives were held incommunicado for 24 hours and released. They did not find Johnny, the son of John and Noreen Gosch of Des Moines, Iowa. Johnny Gosch and thousands of other children are still missing. Every year hundreds of missing children, John and Jane Does, are buried by the states. Their murderers sometimes have pulled their teeth and burned their fingertips with acid so they could not be traced.

This kind of murder, kidnapping or child molestation is not a crime of passion. It is big business preying upon a victim who is almost totally defenseless. Should not those who are pro-life or working for peace and justice do a better job to help our society prevent the crimes, assist the victims and their families and deal justly with the criminals?

Most of us look at a child and see a growing, developing human being for whom we feel some sense of protection and responsibility. Pedophiles see a sex object, and kidnappers see a lucrative commodity. Pedophiles have toll-free numbers to call when they are arrested, newsletters with advice about how to abuse children without leaving telltale marks, and stringers who photograph potential child victims for a kidnap-to-order catalog. Molesters may want boys or girls of different ages. The typical victim is an 11-year-old.

In the previous issue of *NCR*, we saw that pedophiles can be priests. They can also be coaches, scoutmasters or others whose position of trust enables them to be around children. Concerned and even suspicious parents may be a burden

for the many wholesome people who work with children as unselfish volunteers and professionals, but they are a healthy burden.

Last issue, we also saw how our church authorities do not cope well with such antivictual behavior. In our large American society, it is obvious civil authorities do not cope well either. A sexual offender who assaults an adult is four times more likely to receive a prison term than one who assaults a child. What's worse, only one in 100 offenders is apprehended, of those, only one in 10 is convicted; and of those, 60 percent are released on probation, serving no sentence in prison or mental hospitals.

These figures come from Society's League Against Molestation (SLAM), as reported in the *Los Angeles Times*. Other statistics come from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C. They reveal that each year, 1.5 million children are reported missing, of whom a million are runaways or "throwaways" (children locked out by their parents). Of the remaining half million most are abducted by a divorced parent, but many are kidnapped by strangers.

Accurate statistics are difficult to compile because of inconsistent reporting by local police, according to Carolyn Zogg of Child Find, Inc., of New Paltz, N.Y. The Cowgirl told *NCR* there are no federal standards for reporting missing children to the FBI. Most police departments will not report — and often will not help — until children have been missing for several days.

Consequently, the Goscches are lobbying for:

— Uniform reporting laws for all states;

— Allowing minor children to give first depositions on videotape;

— Swift, sure sentencing for molesters.

Several Midwestern states have passed legislation that includes one or more of these points. All states need to address these issues.

In a society which is often anti-child (note the 30 to 5 percent of apartments unrentable by parents with children), more of us must exert a sense of responsibility for every child. We must educate children about their bodily integrity, personal dignity and the everyday rules for the safety. We can also insure that our legislators and law enforcement officials make the welfare of all children a high social priority.

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*7-1053-685*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>gdc</i>	FILED <i>gdc</i>
JUL 11 1985	
FBI - OMAHA	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOI/PA

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# Parents end search for missing paperboy

By The Associated Press

**D**es Moines, Iowa—Saying she's frustrated and tired of dealing with the FBI about her missing son, the mother of a newspaper carrier abducted in 1982 says she and her husband are "pulling out" of the search.

The FBI announced Tuesday that a warrant had been issued for the arrest of Robert Herman Meier II, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., also known as Samuel Forbes Dakota, on a charge of fraud by wire.

The man is accused of taking \$10,000 from the Noreen and John Gosch, asking for \$100,000 more and promising to return their son, John.

Mrs. Gosch said the FBI's announcement was "dirty pool" and that dealing with the agency was "becoming more than I can bear."

"So I have another announcement to make. It's with reluctance that once this lead is resolved, that is the end of our search for Johnny.

"We can't carry the burden of raising money, paying detectives, fight the FBI and secure the help of our senators every time. We have to pull back... it's getting to the point of being injurious to our health," Mrs. Gosch said.

Her son was last seen Sept. 5, 1982, as he was about to begin his newspaper route.

Mrs. Gosch and her husband have been critical of authorities' efforts to find her son. She said the announcement Tuesday was a "grandstand move" and that the information was released without telling the family.

"The FBI also failed to say in their release that the man had information they and the police didn't," she said. "Some of that information involved another vehicle that was used" in the abduction.

She also said the man had told the family that three others were involved in the abduction of her son.

"Dakota described a scar on

Johnny's ankle that no one else knew about. He came to us with good, credible information." But "he made threats against our life if we contacted authorities," she said.

The FBI's complaint states that Mrs. Gosch told the FBI July 26 that she had received a phone call from a man who said he knew where her son was and could return him for a fee. The Gosches met the man in St. Louis on July 14. He told them their son had been kidnapped by the Hell's Angels motorcycle club and was being held in Mexico City, said FBI spokesman Charles R. Wiley.

Mr. Dakota said he would rescue Johnny and deliver him for \$10,000, followed by \$100,000 to be wired to a bank account in the Bahamas, the FBI said. Mrs. Gosch paid Mr. Dakota \$10,000 from the Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc. Fund, the FBI said.

"On July 24 Mr. Dakota told her by telephone that the rescue had failed and that three of his associates had been killed in the attempt, Mr. Wiley said. Mr. Dakota said another rescue attempt would take place in Dearborn, Mich., said the FBI, which determined that no shoot-out ever took place in Mexico City.

On July 26 the Gosches told the FBI that they planned to go to Cleveland on July 28 and get their son back in exchange for money, the FBI said.

"We were to wait for one more phone call and it never came, so we didn't go. Something went wrong," Mrs. Gosch said.

Mr. Wiley said that on Sunday the agency found Mr. Dakota in Saginaw, and he told agents that he had met with the Gosches in St. Louis in July and received \$10,000. He was not taken into custody.

By the time the warrant was obtained, the man was gone, Mr. Wiley said, and the FBI is trying to find him.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Companies give money to help find children

From pineapple growers to pizza makers, a growing number of companies are announcing they will give part of their income to help find missing children.

Wednesday, a West Des Moines motel, the Quality Inn Westmark at Interstate Highway 80 and Ashworth Road, said it will contribute a percentage of its August sales from its new lounge, Excuses, to funds for missing Des Moines area newspaper carriers Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin. A minimum of \$1,500 is expected.

"In our community, this problem is all too real to us," said motel general manager Ronn Sorensen. Quality Inns across the United States will post photographs of missing children and provide telephone service in their lobbies should those children seek help, he said.

Earlier, the Red Baron Pizza Service of Marshall, Minn., said the company will donate 5 cents to the two funds for every Red Baron pizza sold in Des Moines stores from Aug. 18 to 24. The company also announced that it will permit the Gosch and Martin families to raffle off a ride aboard the the Red Baron Squadron, three open-cockpit biplanes that will do stunts at the Des Moines airport Aug. 19-21.

Dole, the pineapple grower, recently announced it will soon start an advertising campaign urging support for the Washington, D.C.-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. For every coupon returned from customers, Dole said it will contribute 5 cents to the center up to a maximum of \$250,000.

Gosch disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, and Martin disappeared Aug. 12, 1984. Both were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 7/25/85

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

UNSUB;

EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053 & 7-1145

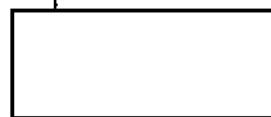
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-763

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SERIALIZED <i>ZP</i>	FILED <i>ZP</i>
JUL 27 1985	
FBI/DOJ	



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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Page 4M  
**THE DES MOINES REGISTER**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
Date: 4/10/91  
Edition: Daily

UNSUB;  
Title:  
**JOHN DAVID GOSCH -**  
**VICTIM;**  
**KIDNAPING**  
Character:  
OO: OM  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: **Omaha**

# Psychic again called in to aid search for Gosch

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Police will get help from a psychic Saturday to find newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, who hasn't been seen for more than eight years.

"All things are possible," said West Des Moines police Lt. Gerry Scott, who has been in charge of the investigation.

Scott said Greta Alexander, an Illinois woman who claims to have found hundreds of missing people, will give her "impressions" to steer investigators to a site she says could reveal what happened to the youngster.

It is the second time Alexander has been involved in the case. She led officers well beyond the city into southwest Iowa in the early days of the investigation, but the search turned up nothing.

Alexander will be sitting in her Delavan, Ill., home talking to investigators over a mobile phone as the investigators ride through the Iowa countryside.

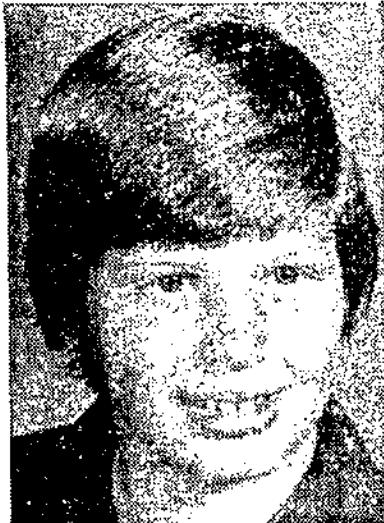
She is expected to describe various landmarks and locales to the officers, who will begin the search at 42nd Street and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines.

Gosch, who was 12, is believed to have been abducted from that corner Sept. 5, 1982, when he was delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

"Whether the information comes from her or a suspect or a witness we have never found, we will do whatever we can with that information," said Scott. "I've got no problems dealing with it and I hope and pray it is successful."

Scott said Alexander had been recommended by the Gosch family and police agreed to include her in the investigation.

Noreen and John Gosch appeared together with Alexander and other



**Johnny Gosch**  
Missing since 1982

clairvoyants in March at a taping of the "Geraldo" television show. The couple and parents of other missing children had been called together by host Geraldo Rivera to discuss the abductions.

Alexander told the Gosches that their son was dead and that the remains might be near a gravel pit and railroad bridge not too far from West Des Moines.

Noreen Gosch said Tuesday that she had mixed feelings about psychics. She said that some clairvoyants had "good track records" and she included Alexander in the group.

Reached at her home, Alexander, who claimed she gained her psychic abilities in 1966 after being struck by lightning, said her powers "were impressions, like intuition; a woman's intuition."

"There is no space and there is no time. There's just always," she said.

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MAY 15 1991

FBI-Omaha

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Page 4M

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 6/28/91

Edition: Daily

UNSUB:

Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH -

VICTIM;

KIDNAPING

Character: 007 OM

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

4M / THE DES MOINES REGISTER ■ Friday, June 28, 1991

# Omaha investigator to take on Gosch case

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Roy Stephens, an Omaha investigator who helped authorities crack open a baffling Nebraska kidnapping case, has joined the hunt for missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch.

Noreen Gosch said Thursday that Stephens has begun sorting through "good information" that has surfaced in recent months about Gosch's apparent kidnapping almost nine years ago.

Gosch declined to discuss details, but sources say Stephens has been in Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota tracking down leads that have come to the family.

"He's like a bulldog," said Gosch, whose son vanished while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register on Sept. 5, 1982, near his home. "Roy will get ahold of something, and he won't let go."

Stephens, director of operations for the Missing Youth Foundation in Omaha, said the Gosch investigation will be difficult because years have passed.

Stephens' work helped prosecutors in March win the conviction of David Phelps, a Perry native accused of kidnapping 9-year-old Jill Cutshall in Norfolk, Neb. She has never been

found.

His investigation caused a sensation. Stephens had taken Phelps to a wildlife preserve near Norfolk and fired a shot into the air. The shaken Phelps then went with Stephens to a local motel and agreed to an interview by an Omaha television crew summoned by Stephens.

During the taping, Phelps said he had been with the girl in 1987 when she disappeared but had left her alive with a friend at the preserve. The friend wasn't charged.

The tape and other details gathered by Stephens were critical to the state's case against Phelps, who has insisted he is innocent.

Lawyers on both sides were outraged by Stephens' tactics. Prosecutor James Smith described Stephens' work as "unprofessional" and said police often referred to him as "the big dummy."

Stephens said he wasn't annoyed by the comments. He said he had become obsessed with the Cutshall case and had fired the handgun in frustration.

Stephens is one of several investigators, including agents from the FBI and Division of Criminal Investigation, who have entered the case.

2 - OM 7-1053 (Closed)

1 - OM 80-592A

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7-1053-915

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1991	
FBI-OMAHA	

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FBI DOJ

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# Gosch 'informant' was figure in Omaha scandal

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Is Johnny Gosch mixed up in a sex-slave and pornography ring?

After nine years of relentless rumors, stories were surfacing last week that the abducted newspaper carrier had been taken by pedophiles into a grotesque underworld of child pornography and violence.

This time the parents were relating the information. John and Noreen Gosch said it had recently come from an "informant" who claims he helped with the abduction and had been with Gosch after the kidnapping.

## Bizarre Case

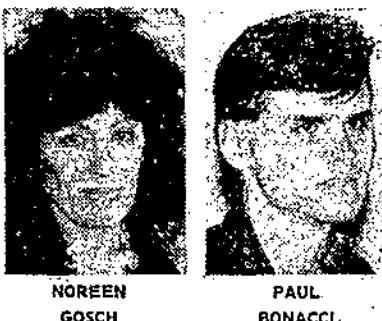
While bizarre in a case studded with the bizarre, the account had a familiar ring. It sounded like the sex-drugs-satanism rumors that rocked Omaha recently, stemming from the collapse of the Franklin Community Federal Credit Union.

The similarity is no coincidence.

Source of the recent Johnny Gosch stories is Paul Bonacci, 23, an inmate at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln who is serving time for three separate convictions of sexually abusing a minor.

Bonacci provided elaborate tales of drug use, sex and violence in Omaha to investigators and a grand jury. There was no mention of Gosch at the time.

After hearing his stories and debunking allegations of other witnesses, the grand jury declared Bonacci "was perhaps the most pathetic witness to appear."



Bonacci claimed during that investigation that he had multiple personalities, at least 28, and that he had sex with some of the city's most powerful men. The grand jury noted: "His psychiatrist doubts that he can tell the truth."

"His many inconsistencies and contradictions render his testimony unbelievable and necessitate his indictment for perjury."

Bonacci was charged with perjury, but the charges were dropped. Authorities said his mental state was a factor in their decision.

## Chastised Lawyer

In an unusual comment, the grand jury chastised Bonacci's lawyer for allowing him to come before the grand jury in the first place.

Told of Bonacci's claims about Gosch, James Martin Davis, an Oma-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1B & 3B

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 7/21/91

Edition: Daily

UNSUB:

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;

Title: KIDNAPING

OO: OM

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

ha lawyer involved in the early stages of the Omaha investigation, said, "This guy is a pathological liar. There are always people like this coming in and advancing the hopes of the family. Maybe there is a grain of truth. The problem is this person has cried wolf so many times, it's hardly worth any kind of belief."

But Noreen and John Gosch, aware of Bonacci's past, say his claims about their son are believable and have produced some startling results in the investigation in Des Moines.

John Gosch, who met with Bonacci at the prison, said, "He seemed sincere."

Bonacci has told the Gosches that he participated in the abduction of Johnny Gosch. He contends it was carried out by four men, including a local man who made the arrangements and made a substantial amount of money on the deal. Johnny, then 12, was taken off his newspaper route on Sept. 5, 1982, a few blocks from his West Des Moines home and whisked away undetected.

The Gosches say they have been told Johnny was handed to his captors for child pornography.

The Gosches say Bonacci has provided good information on the Des Moines "source" and has identified his picture. They decline to identify the man, but say their private investigation has accumulated a variety of information on him that is being added to almost daily.

Noreen Gosch says of Bonacci, "He knows some incredible things."

But what proof?

She says, "There were photographs taken of Johnny prior to the kidnapping" by the abductors. "We know this because a woman reported it to

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JUL 22 1991	
FBI-Omaha	
SAC [Signature]	

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 3B

# Gosch 'informant' was figure in Omaha scandal

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page One*

police. We're convinced Bonacci saw those pictures. He accurately described the location, which is not far from our home. He described many things about the pictures which we have never publicly talked about."

Roy Stephens, investigator for the Missing Youth Foundation in Omaha who has been conducting the investigation for the family, says Bonacci "hasn't told me anything that hasn't been true.

"He has been called a pathetic witness, but at the same time it was never backed up," Stephens says:

West Des Moines police have received Bonacci's stories with "caution," says Lt. Gerry Scott, who is in charge of the Gosch investigation. Scott says the Gosches have shared some of their information with police.

"We are aware of what's going on. We're not going to reinvent the wheel. This has been investigated in Nebraska. When things need investigating here, they will be investigated," he says.

Police have not interviewed Bonacci and have no plans to do so.

Scott says, "Even if he had 250 personalities, a person like this could have been involved. The possibility is there."

## Abducted

Gosch, who left his home with his dog, had started his Des Moines Sunday Register route when he was taken. His wagon, filled with newspapers, was found two blocks from his home. His dog returned safely home.

A vast search that began later failed to turn up a shred of information. Almost two years later, Eugene Martin, 13, also delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, was abducted near his home in south Des Moines, about seven miles from the Gosch

room by Stephens. Phelps said he was with Cutshall the day she disappeared.

A tape of the interview was crucial evidence against Phelps. He was found guilty of kidnapping. Cutshall never has been found.

## Received Flack

The arrest and conviction was a victory for Stephens, but he got flack from police and prosecutors and Phelps' lawyers.

A prosecutor accused Stephens of being a loose cannon, an unprofessional ex-felon known to police as the "big dummy."

What the critics didn't note was that Stephens — who was in prison 15 years ago in California for safe-cracking — was getting applause, including from Cutshall's mother, for solving the difficult case.

"It was a period I went through that I'm very ashamed of," Stevens says of his safe-cracking days. "But it has laid the foundation for what I have done with missing children."

Recently, the 40-year-old Stephens has been getting more praise. He was named outstanding man of the year by Jaycees in Nebraska for his work in recovering children. In a Forbes magazine article this year, Watergate figure G. Gordon Liddy, who operates an academy for corporate security in Miami, said Stephens was tops in finding missing children.

"The best in the business in that field, according to a survey of his peers, is Roy Stephens ... who has recovered some 50 missing children over the last five-and-a-half years. May you never require his services," Liddy wrote.

Stephens says he expects to get to



**Johnny Gosch**  
*Abducted 9 years ago*

the bottom of the baffling Gosch case and then turn the information over to authorities.

"I'm not trying to locate Johnny. Those things prove fruitless. I've tried to come at it from a different angle and concentrate on the information on the perpetrators and find them."

## Still Receive Leads

Scott says leads in the Gosch case continue. In the past year, two prison inmates in the state claimed to have information. Their stories turned up no new information. Friday, Scott was working on a reported "sighting" of the youngster in Indiana, one of hundreds that have come to police.

"I always felt we do what we can do. Maybe there's some nitwit in this. It's got to be somebody deranged. We've got boxes and files and data that so far show what didn't happen," Scott said.

"Eventually something is going to happen. This is going to be solved. I have that gut feeling. Right now, we've got nothing."

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Page 1AThe Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Date: 7/18/91  
Edition: DailyTitle: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIMCharacter: KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1045  
Submitting Office: Omaha

## Gosch: Ring of pedophiles took Johnny

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

The mother of Johnny Gosch, who has been missing almost nine years, said Wednesday she believes four men took her son, and one of the four is a local person.

Noreen Gosch said information gathered recently by a private investigator indicates that the abductors planned the kidnapping for some time and carried it out with precision, using a van and cars and whisking the boy from the city undetected.

She said the four are pedophiles or worked with pedophiles. Gosch, who was 12 when he was last seen on his newspaper route near his home in West Des Moines, was taken for money and was to be used in pornography or for sex, she said.

"There are so many aspects to this, but we think we're dealing with hard-

GOSCH

7-1053-917

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FBI/DOJ

# Gosch: Pedophile ring took Johnny

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page One*

ball criminals who don't want to be caught and won't stop at anything to remain free," she said. "I have not slept since I have heard some details this week."

One theory about the fate of her son, she said, is that he may have been forced into recruiting other children into pornography.

Gosch did not identify any of the four, including the local man. She said he invited the others to the Des Moines area and arranged a meeting at a motel before the abduction Sept. 5, 1982.

Large sums of money are believed to have been exchanged, she said. Gosch said the identities of all but one of the four, a man who doesn't live in Iowa, are known. She said she and an investigator, Roy Stephens of Omaha, have been supplying information to West Des Moines police.

Stephens provided information to police in Norfolk, Neb., last year that helped them crack the kidnapping of Bill Cutshall Aug. 13, 1987. David



Noreen Gosch  
"Dealing with hardball criminals"

Cutshall, a native of Perry, was arrested and convicted of that kidnapping. Cutshall hasn't been found.

Sources close to the Gosch case said the information about the four

men was obtained by Stephens from a former prison inmate in Lincoln, Neb., who claimed to know about the ring.

Stephens has told the family, sources say, that the ex-inmate identified the Des Moines "contact" from a photograph. The suspected contact, said Gosch, has been under suspicion by the family for some time.

"From what we know of this informant, he has credibility," she said.

Gosch said the recent information appears to fit in with other details the family has gathered through the years.

Gosch said Stephens told her the same ring may be involved in other kidnappings in the region, including the suspected abduction of Des Moines Register carrier Eugene Martin, 13, in south Des Moines in 1984, and more recently, that of Jacob Wetterling in St. Joseph, Minn.

## Talk Show Comments

She said comments Wednesday on a WHO radio talk show about the informant were "unfortunate and may have destroyed all that we have worked toward."

"We were not ready with this. It's way too early. We have so many other things that we have to do," she said.

Several breaks have emerged in the cases of the two carriers, who were both delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register. But all of the leads have uncovered no information as to what happened to the youngsters.

Despite a search that included the FBI, state and local police, and tens of thousands of handbills posted across the country, no information has been uncovered to indicate what happened to the two or whether the cases are connected.

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Page 3M

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 12-10-92

Edition: Daily

Title:

Character:

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Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

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TO RA ON DEC 26 1992**

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b6 OM 80-592A

**'WE'RE GETTING PRETTY CLOSE'**

# Suspect in California case tied to abduction of Gosch

**A drawing of the man was identified by a former inmate who says he aided in the Iowa kidnapping.**

By FRANK SANTIAGO

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Authorities are trying to determine how a police sketch, which was circulated for years in a San Francisco-area kidnapping, surfaced as a composite drawing of a man said to have participated in the Johnny Gosch abduction in West Des Moines.

Investigator Roy Stephens, who has been tracking the Gosch abduction for the family, confirmed Wednesday that the drawing of a suspect in the Gosch case was borrowed from the West Coast case.

How the composite in Michaela Garecht's abduction surfaced in Stephens' investigation of the Gosch kidnapping has puzzled the FBI and Iowa investigators.

"I think the best way to describe it is that we're trying to determine the credibility of the information at this time," said Rick Smith, an FBI spokesman in San Francisco.

## "Best We've Got"

Drawn from descriptions by a 9-year-old girl, the drawing isn't considered reliable by the Hayward, Calif., Police Department, said Hayward Det. Steve Kirkland. "It's the best we've got, though," he said.

Kirkland said hundreds have claimed to have seen a man who looks like the man in the drawing. "We've had women say, 'It's my boyfriend,'" he said.

More than 12,000 tips since Garecht was kidnapped in 1988 have

failed to find a trace of the youngster, Kirkland said.

Paul Bonacci, a former Nebraska prison inmate, said the California drawing was a dead-ringer for "Tony," Stephens said.

Bonacci contends a man named Tony assisted him in the 1982 abduction of Gosch. His account of the abduction has been received with skepticism by authorities, who haven't interviewed him because, they claim, he is not a credible witness.

## One of Three

The California drawing is one of three men Bonacci says took part in the abduction. He has identified the two others as "Emilio" and "Charlie." Their full identities have not been disclosed by Stephens.

"Two years ago, when Paul started describing to me people who were involved with Johnny's kidnapping, he gave verbal descriptions on a number of people," Stephens said. "I started gathering composites of suspects in other abductions who looked like what he described."

He said he placed several composites in front of Bonacci and Bonacci picked the Hayward composite.

"That's him," he said, "said Stephens. "He said if it's not Tony, it's his twin."

Stephens, executive director of the Missing Youth Foundation in Omaha, said the drawing was among several posters of suspects that come in the mail to the foundation.

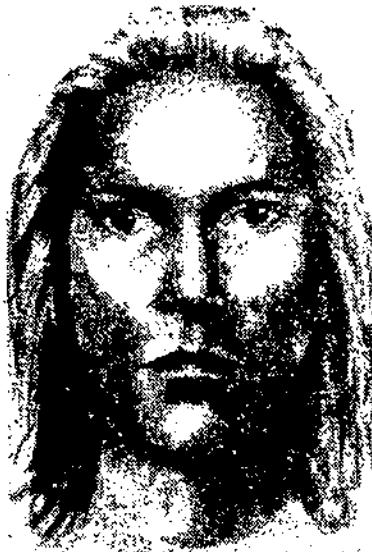
## Not Surprised

That Bonacci selected a questionable drawing done four years ago and in another case was no surprise to Stephens.

"If these people are operating in some type of organized venture, they're bound to be popping up somewhere else," he said.

Stephens and the Gosch family have claimed that the 12-year-old Gosch, kidnapped while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, had been taken by a ring of pornographers.

Garecht was riding a motor scooter



Drawing of suspect

er with a friend in 1988. Both left the scooters outside a store. Michaela saw the friend had left her scooter near an old car and she went over to pick it up.

"When she bent over, a white male jumped out of the car, picked her up and threw her into the front seat. We think the kidnapper was working alone. He sped away with the girl and she hadn't been seen since," the FBI's Smith said.

"We don't think this was done by a ring."

The composite was drawn from descriptions provided by Garecht's friend. Smith said the FBI is aware that Bonacci has fingered the composite in Garecht's case.

"We're not in a position to disregard leads even if they lack the utmost of credibility. We're not in a position at this time to say this is less credible than something else," he said.

Stephens has been in San Francisco in recent weeks to trace leads provided by Bonacci.

"I think we're knocking on the door. We're getting pretty close to finding out what happened to Johnny," he said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**THE GOSCH CASE**

# Phone call is seen as extortion

**A man calling from San Francisco identified himself as a missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier.**

By FRANK SANTIAGO  
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

A mysterious call from a man in San Francisco who identified himself as missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch may have been an extortion attempt, a source close to the investigation said Friday.

Paul Sparrow, senior producer for "America's Most Wanted" in Washington, D.C., who worked with agents to track the caller, said the FBI had been unable to find him, but the search continues.

"The person is probably not Johnny Gosch, the FBI thinks, but possibly an extortionist," said Sparrow.

## Accurate Recounting

An FBI spokesman in San Francisco declined to comment, but confirmed that several calls had been made to the West Des Moines home of Gosch's parents. The agent said Noreen Gosch's recounting of the details was accurate.

Noreen Gosch, the abducted boy's mother, said the caller hung up without talking. She said the calls were traced to the phone booth by an AT&T operator Monday evening.

A passer-by in San Francisco, whom Gosch identified as a Kelly McFadden, answered the phone. McFadden said the phone booth had been occupied by another man who was sitting on a nearby bench.



**Johnny Gosch**  
*Missing*

Responding to the operator's instructions, McFadden went to the man on the bench. He returned to the phone to say the man had identified himself as Johnny Gosch and said he was from Iowa.

## Agents Closed In

McFadden was told to hang up and call Noreen Gosch. McFadden called Gosch, who contacted the FBI. Agents closed in, but the mystery man disappeared.

Rick Smith, FBI spokesman in San Francisco, said he wouldn't disclose details of the investigation.

"Our primary concern is with the victim and with the victim's family. We don't want to raise any false hopes, but with a lead like this, we are pursuing it to the fullest extent possible."

Smith said, "We pursue all leads but it doesn't mean we're any closer to finding her son."

Sparrow said the calls were made from a booth at a bus station. He said the FBI believed McFadden, whom he described as a homeless person, was telling the truth.

"America's Most Wanted," a crime-stoppers show that appears Fridays on the Fox Network, has been feeding the FBI leads. The information was obtained after a Nov. 20 broadcast detailing the abductions of Gosch, 12, in 1982 and Des Moines newspaper carrier Eugene Martin, 13, in 1984.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3M

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 12-5-92

Edition: Daily

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

## 5,000 Calls

Sparrow estimated that operators answered more than 5,000 calls, the greatest response to any show in the program's five-year history. The program pleaded for information about the abductions.

Also received was a 14-page letter written by an individual who claimed he had known Paul Bonacci. He said he could verify some of Bonacci's version of the kidnapping. The writer, who said he wanted to help in the investigation, claimed to have been with Gosch for two years.

Bonacci, a former Nebraska prison inmate, was interviewed on the program and told of his involvement in Gosch's abduction. He identified three others who he said participated.

Authorities do not consider Bonacci credible.

Sparrow said the letter was signed "Jimmy" but there was no other identification and no return address.

He said the program planned during a broadcast to make an appeal to the writer to identify himself.

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OM 80-592A

-934

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3m

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 12-4-92

Edition: Daily

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Gosch's mother in 'shock' over calls

By FRANK SANTIAGO

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Noreen Gosch, mother of the missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, said Thursday she was "totally in shock" over recent calls to her home that she said may have been made by her son.

"This could be a very substantial lead or just another long shot," she said.

FBI agents closed in on the area near the phone booth in San Francisco where the calls came from Monday, but found no signs of Gosch, she said.

The calls followed a recent broadcast of "America's Most Wanted," a crime-stoppers show on the Fox network, which traced the abductions of Gosch, 12, in 1982 and Des Moines

newspaper carrier Eugene Martin, 13, in 1984.

Gosch and her husband had returned to their West Des Moines home after Thanksgiving vacation to find several calls on their answering machine. She said a caller had hung up without talking.

The calls persisted through the weekend, and Gosch said she asked AT&T for help.

She said an operator traced the calls to a phone booth in San Francisco. The operator dialed the number, and, Gosch said, a Kelly McFeddan picked up the phone.

The operator asked, according to Gosch, who listened to the conversation, whether McFeddan had been talking on the phone. He responded, "No," but he said he saw another man in the phone booth and that man was sitting on a bench nearby.

McFeddan was asked by the operator to approach that man and ask his identity. McFeddan returned to the booth and said the man said his name was Johnny Gosch and that he had lived in Iowa.

The operator gave McFeddan Noreen Gosch's phone number and told him to call right back, Noreen Gosch said.

McFeddan did call and Gosch notified the FBI, which closed in.

The man who was on the bench, described by McFeddan to be 6 feet tall and in his early 20s, vanished.

She said agents scoured the area and could find no trace of him.

Gosch said the FBI provided an age-enhanced photo of Gosch to McFeddan, and he said the photo closely resembled the man he had seen in the phone booth. FBI officials couldn't be reached for comment.

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OM 80-592A

- 935

**'AMERICA'S MOST WANTED'**

# TV show provides tips, leads in Gosch, Martin kidnappings

**By FRANK SANTIAGO**  
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Was Johnny Gosch in a Winn-Dixie supermarket in Gulfport, Miss., about three years ago?

Was he selling roses from South America recently in Raleigh, N.C.?

Could he have been the youngster seen a few years ago in Sacramento, Calif.?



**Johnny Gosch**  
Missing since 1982

These leads and dozens more, gathered by a nationally televised program Nov. 20, have been passed on to police and FBI agents, who are now checking them out.

Although the tips generated from "America's Most Wanted" are new, they don't promise quick answers to the mysterious abductions of newspaper carriers Gosch and Eugene Martin, investigators said Wednesday.

Producers of the show said operators received more than 2,000 calls, a response rarely matched in the program's five years on the Fox Network.

"It is like anything else that has come into this case," said West Des Moines police Lt. Lyle McKinney. "We are not ignoring anything and we've got a lot of work."

"We don't want to demean anything people told the television program. What they said was in good faith."

Larry Holmquist, spokesman for the FBI in Omaha, said: "Any information received as a result of the airing of 'America's Most Wanted' will be reviewed for lead value. We will not initiate any investigation based on information received from established uncredible sources."

Asked if "uncredible sources" include Paul Bonacci, the former Nebraska prison inmate who appeared on the program and claims to have participated in Gosch's abduction, Holmquist said: "We have no comment. The statement should be taken for its face value."

Filmed partly in the Des Moines area, the program retraced events surrounding the kidnapping of Gosch, 12, in 1982 near his West Des Moines home, and Martin, 13, in south Des Moines in 1984.

Both were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register. Police have been unable to link the cases or determine if the boys are alive.

The program also included a drawing of Gosch as he might look today,

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 6M

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 12-3-92

Edition: Daily

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:



**Eugene Martin**  
Missing since 1984

and sketches of three individuals that Bonacci claims aided in the Gosch and Martin abductions.

One caller said she saw a youngerster who looked like Gosch in a supermarket in Indianapolis. There was no accompanying factual information as to whether it was Gosch, McKinney said.

Another caller said "Johnny Gosch is still alive" and hung up.

McKinney said about 200 leads on Gosch were received. He said Des Moines police got 11 leads on the Martin case.

He couldn't explain why the numbers were so far apart.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 10A

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 11-30-92

Edition: Daily

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Metro RECORD

## FBI looks at similarity of sketches in Gosch case

Noreen Gosch is optimistic over a San Francisco newspaper's report that FBI investigators have new leads in a kidnapping case that may involve her son's kidnapper.

"We're very, very hopeful," said Gosch, mother of Johnny Gosch. "Now we can prove there is a pattern, a trail of cases. .... We have some tangible material that can be traced," she said Sunday.

The television program "America's Most Wanted" recently aired a composite sketch that a private investigator claims is that of Gosch's abductor. The San Francisco Chronicle reported Wednesday that the sketch matched another sketch of a child's abductor in the San Francisco area. Bay-area investigators, the paper reported, are looking into whether the two kidnappings are connected.

Des Moines FBI agents are aware of the possible connection, and the lines of communication are open between agents in San Francisco and Des Moines, said agent David Oxley.

Johnny Gosch was 12 when he was kidnapped from his paper route in West Des Moines in 1982 while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

Woman reno

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*Sioux City Journal  
Sioux City, Iowa*

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: 5-15-93  
Edition: " "

Title: *(Unsolved):  
Johnny Gosch - victim*

Character: 7-0m-3892-9  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

Saturday, May 15, 1993/page A3

# Arrest in Gosch case not true

By Kate Thompson

Journal staff writer

Reports of a Siouxland arrest — or any arrest — in the Johnny Gosch case are false, authorities said Friday.

Johnny Gosch, a 12-year-old West Des Moines boy, was kidnapped Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Register. After more than a decade, the case has received national media attention but remains unsolved.

Apparently, a solution is not near, authorities said.

"The FBI has not made an arrest in this case and we have no basis for suggesting we will be making an arrest in this case," said John Campbell, assistant special agent in charge of the Omaha office of the FBI.

He said no real strong evidence has turned up recently, even with all of the publicity the case has received.

Campbell said the attention the case has received on "America's Most Wanted" and in various news reports has been misleading.

"So much of that is information that has no substance or is information lacking in credibility," Campbell said.

The lead law enforcement agency in investigating the case has been the

West Des Moines Police Department. Sgt. Bernie Taylor is one of the officers who has worked on the case. He agreed with Campbell's comments.

"There is nothing anybody is trying to hide from anybody," he said. "Nobody has been arrested."

Taylor said police continue to follow the case closely. Recently, they went to Madison, Wis., to conduct an interview in the case and he said rumors may have been started there as well.

"It's a frustrating situation," Taylor said. "Half the stuff we hear (from the media) is news to us. But we are still investigating."

Taylor said he felt he was more certain of what had happened a decade ago and said some of the speculation about the case may have added to confusion rather than actually assisted in increasing knowledge.

He added that he is not being critical of the family's efforts in locating their son. Taylor said if it were his own child who was missing, he would have done many of the things the family has to find their son and to draw attention to the case.

"Any parent would," he said.

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# Bonacci Claims Investigated In Colorado

BY ROBERT DORR  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Paul Bonacci's claim that he saw missing Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch imprisoned at a house in the Rocky Mountains is being investigated by Colorado sheriff's officers.

The Chaffee County Sheriff's Office learned about Bonacci's claim three weeks ago from a staff member of the "America's Most Wanted" television show, Undersheriff Dave Bowers said Wednesday from Buena Vista, Colo.

The Fox network TV program included a segment on the Gosch case last November. Tuesday evening, the show produced an update.

Bonacci was shown leading a film crew to a house where he said he and Gosch were held in 1986.

Bonacci, 25, of Omaha, has a multiple-personality disorder. He was labeled a "pathetic figure" by a Douglas County grand jury that indicted him in 1990 on charges of lying under oath. Bonacci testified he had been sexually abused by prominent Omaha men.

The grand jury, which investigated allegations stemming from a legislative committee's inquiry into the failure of Omaha's Franklin Community Federal Credit Union, said Bonacci's allegations were part of an elaborate hoax.

Since then, Bonacci has claimed he was with two men whom he called "Amelio" and "Tony" when they abducted Gosch, then 12, in 1982 from a West Des Moines street.

Bonacci said Amelio and Tony were part of a ring that abducted young boys for sale to men who sexually abused them and used them for pornography.

Bonacci said he and Gosch were held in an "underground chamber" at the Colorado acreage.

Bowers said the property for several years has had an absentee owner. Sheriff's officers are trying to find three renters who might have occupied the house during the mid-1980s, he said.

(Indicate page, name of Pg. 23 newspaper, city and state.)

**Omaha World Herald**  
**Omaha, Nebraska**

Date: 5/27/93

Edition: Sunrise

Title: "Bonacci Claims Investigated In Colorado"

Character:

or

Classification: 7-OM-38929

Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:

(X)

The undersheriff said the area described on the TV program as an "underground chamber" is an enclosed space underneath the house, which sits on a hillside.

The FBI says it does not believe Bonacci is telling the truth.

Bonacci's indictment by the Franklin grand jury was dropped after another accuser in the Franklin case, Alisha Owen, was convicted of perjury as a result of her similar allegations.

Bonacci was released last October after serving 28 months at the Lincoln Correctional Center for fondling three boys in 1989 in a case unrelated to Franklin and Gosch.

7-OM-38929-985

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# Bonacci Says He Was Held With Johnny Gosch

**BY ROBERT DORR**  
WORLD HERALD STAFF WRITER

Paul A. Bonacci said on a Fox network television show Tuesday night that he saw long-missing Des Moines paper carrier Johnny Gosch imprisoned at a ranch in the Colorado Rocky Mountains in 1986.

Bonacci, 25, of Omaha, was indicted in 1990 on charges of lying under oath to a grand jury investigating child sex abuse allegations in the Franklin Community Federal Credit Union case, which is unrelated to the Gosch abduction.

Bonacci accompanied a reporting crew for the "America's Most Wanted" show to a ranch near Buena Vista, 70 miles west of Colorado Springs. He said he and Gosch were held in an "underground chamber" at the ranch. Gosch was branded with a "Rocking X" brand after trying to escape, Bonacci said.

Bonacci didn't explain how he was brought to the ranch or how he left.

Bonacci has claimed that he was with two men that he called "Amelio" and "Tony" when they abducted Gosch, then 12, in 1982. Bonacci said Amelio and Tony were part of a ring that abducted young boys for sale to men who sexually abused them and used them for pornography.

Gosch and Bonacci were together again at the ranch four years later, Bonacci said.

Show narrator John Walsh said the current ranch owner was not living there when Bonacci claims he and Gosch were held there. The owner is working with law authorities, Walsh said.

The show telecast on Fox stations first told the Gosch story last November. Tuesday night's segment on Gosch, one of several missing-children stories told on the one-hour program, was termed an update of the earlier story.

Walsh said Bonacci had been given a lie-detector test, and the results were inconclusive because of his multiple personality disorder.

The FBI does not believe Bonacci is telling the truth, Walsh said. He added that Gosch's parents, John and Noreen

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) **Page 14**

**Omaha World Herald**  
**Omaha, Nebraska**

Date: **5/26/93**  
Edition: **Sunrise**

Title: "Bonacci Says He Was Held With Johnny Gosch"

Character:  
or  
Classification: **7-OM-38929**  
Submitting Office: **OMAHA**

Indexing:

Gosch of Des Moines, believe Bonacci knows too many undisclosed details about the case to be making up his story.

As a result of the first report on the TV show, a man named Jimmy wrote Gosch's parents to say he too was held at the ranch, Walsh said.

Gosch disappeared on Sept. 5, 1982, as he was about to deliver a wagon load of Sunday newspapers a few blocks from his home.

Last November's show generated 5,000 phone calls from people offering tips, many of them about the Gosch case, Lance Heflin, the show's executive producer, said in an interview from Washington this week.

Those tips were passed along to police and the FBI, he said.

The leads provided by the TV show were investigated, but none panned out, Lt. Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines Police Department and FBI

spokesman Larry Holmquist told The World-Herald.

Bonacci was indicted after he testified to the Douglas County Franklin grand jury that he had been sexually abused by prominent Omaha men. The grand jury called Bonacci "a pathetic figure."

The indictment was dropped after another accuser in the Franklin case, Alisha Owen, was convicted of perjury as a result of her similar allegations.

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FBI/DOJ	

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## Midlands News

# Sheriff Is Doubtful Bonacci Saw Gosch

## FBI Considers Claims False

BY ROBERT DORR  
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Colorado authorities said Tuesday that they believe Paul A. Bonacci made up his story that he saw missing Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch in a house near Buena Vista, Colo.

Bonacci made his claims on a television show.

"We don't find any credibility in anything that Bonacci has said," Chaffee County Undersheriff Dave Bowers said from Salida, Colo. "We feel confident that Bonacci has fabricated the whole thing."

Bowers said he has come to that conclusion mainly based on the FBI's investigation of Bonacci's claims regarding Gosch.

The FBI has said it doesn't believe Bonacci is telling the truth about the Gosch case.

Bonacci has claimed repeatedly that he was in the car of the men who abducted Gosch, then 12, in 1982. Gosch has never been found. Bonacci says Gosch was taken by a ring of men who sexually abused young boys and used them for pornography.

Bonacci appeared on two "America's Most Wanted" shows on the Fox television network dealing with the Gosch abduction. On the more recent show, May 25, Bonacci was shown leading a

camera crew to an unoccupied house in the Colorado Rockies. Bonacci said he saw Gosch held there in about 1986.

The Chaffee County sheriff's officer who investigated Bonacci's claims, Deputy Sheriff Randy Nold, said from Buena Vista that Bonacci might have gotten enough information from someone familiar with the area to lead the TV crew to the empty house.

Bowers and Nold said they have determined who occupied the house during the time that Bonacci claimed he saw Gosch there. The two sheriff's officers said they don't have any substantiation that Gosch was ever held there or that any laws were violated.

Bonacci's attorney, Lincoln lawyer John DeCamp, said he still thinks Bonacci's story needs more investigation.

Bonacci, 25, was indicted by the Douglas County Franklin grand jury in 1991 on charges of lying under oath after he testified that he had been sexually abused by prominent Omaha men.

The charges against Bonacci were dropped after another accuser in the Franklin case, Alisha Owen, was convicted of perjury as a result of her similar allegations.

The Franklin child-sexual-abuse allegations arose out of a two-year investigation by a special committee of the Nebraska Legislature. That committee was formed after the 1988 financial collapse of Omaha's Franklin Community Federal Credit Union.

# AMERICA FREE INFO NETWORK

February 7  
1992

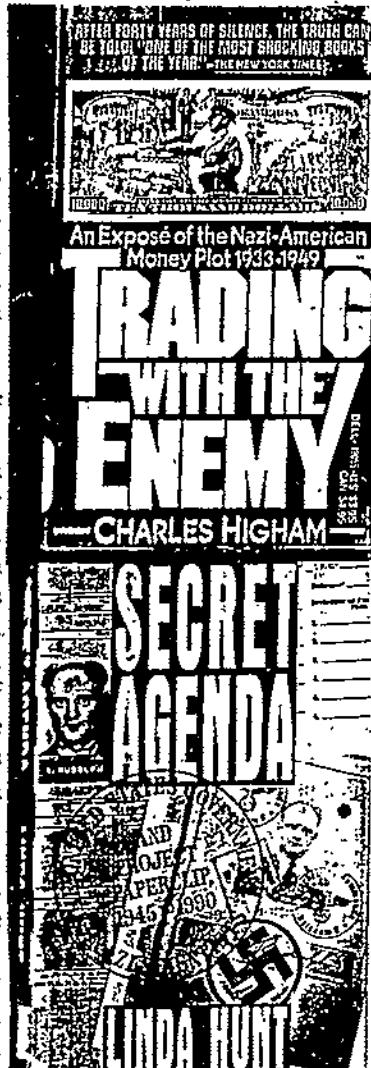
Published by:  
John M. Zielinski  
America Free Press

John F. Kennedy  
Catch the Movie  
Learn the Reason

Picture JFK becoming aware of a major plot to take control of America. A Nazi plot begun before the end of WW II. A plot to infiltrate the Pentagon, the CIA and the FBI. Picture a book printed in 1940 called "America and the New World Order" about America becoming a strong part of the Third Reich.

"Jump 20 years after Kennedy's death to 1983, Charles Highams a writer about the good old days of Hollywood researches a biography of Errol Flynn and discovers his Nazi connections among Henry Ford and his company, General Motors, ITT and Standard Oil and they were all major backers of Hitler and the Reich. Fascism, the rule of the elite, with workers as slaves fascinate America corporation executives--to rule like to Roman of old over a vast world empire.

All did not go well in America despite heavy sabotage and massive propaganda against FDR the Jew lover. The coup that had been planned never took place. The Germans were losing on the home front. The World Bank helped to infuse more capital into German and set up a Swiss bank account so that millions looted from the banks in Poland Hungary etc could be put



By 1991 Linda Hunt in "Secret Agenda: Operation Paper Clip," had documented extensive use of doctors

## MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IOWA/NEBRASKA THE REGISTER'S READERS SAY

### Why do police ignore Gosch suspect?

A year ago when Paul Bonacci first shared information about his participation in our son's kidnapping, we, too, were shocked and a little unsure of the information that was coming from this young man.

It was so horrible we didn't want to believe it at first. Then, as the private investigator began to check out and verify all of the information, a picture of what actually happened to our son began to form.

John DeCamp, Paul Bonacci's attorney, shared in a written statement all of Paul's remarks with the FBI office in Omaha. All of this time we hoped and prayed they would make contact with Paul and check for themselves the accuracy of the statements about the kidnapping. Silence from the FBI followed -- nothing happened. So we pursued the information, just as parents have always done.

Then all hell broke loose when this story hit the news media. The story was not released by us or our private investigator. However, we had to deal with the effects of this untimely release. Again, we tried to look on the

positive side and hope with this all being out in the open, including the names of the kidnappers, that surely the authorities would then seek out Paul Bonacci and talk to him.

Again, silence -- followed by their declaration from their offices that they had decided Paul is not credible on our case, that due to a multiple-personality disorder he has fabricated all of the information about Johnny.

If that is true, how was Paul able to select the correct photograph from a line-up of photos and tell us about the local man in Des Moines named Sam and his involvement in our case? Paul has correctly given us his first and last name. This man has been a suspect in the case for four years. This is quite a coincidence.

If this terrible tragedy could happen to our son, and the years of pain and work to solve it could be thrown away when a confession finally comes in the case by the authorities, it could happen to anyone.

Those responsible for our son's kidnapping are still free. We know who they are at this time, but nothing

would prevent them from kidnapping again, especially when they see and hear news reports that authorities will do nothing to help.

— John and Noreen Gosch,  
1004 45th St., West Des Moines.

Isn't it appalling that both the West Des Moines police and the DCI both initially felt that the trip to Omaha to interview John Bonacci, who admits involvement in the abduction of John Gosch, was not worth the effort?

How could the police dismiss even the slightest clue and refuse to act? Only after WHO-TV aired the story and The Register printed the same did the police finally decide to act. Had it not have been for the news media, the lead would not be investigated.

The police should not have to be embarrassed into performing their job. It is a tragedy both for the Gosch family and for the public that the media must have to step in and expose the laxity of the West Des Moines police and the Division of Criminal Investigation.

— Hugh Hammond,  
2905 38th St., Des Moines.

### FEARFUL NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE CLOSES DOWN INVESTIGATION, IOWA

EXHIBIT # 38-5  
CASE # 820465



Gary Caradori, special investigator hired by legislature to investigate child sexual abuse and Franklin Credit Union failure:

## WHAT DID HE FIND OUT THAT GOT HIM KILLED?

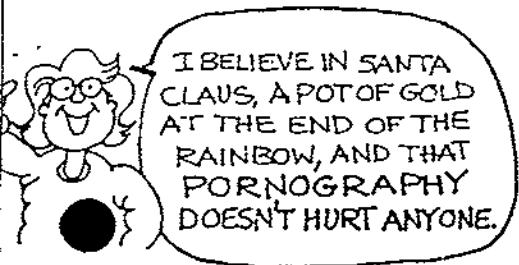
Why has the media gone all out to discredit him?

### **Don't let his death be in vain**

Gary Caradori, and his 8 year old son Andrew were killed in a plane crash July 11, 1990. Most Nebraskans believe foul play was involved in the accident.

The guilty don't want the truth known, labeling this a hoax. Join those who are exposing the real liars, not punishing the victims.

First the *World Herald*, then *48 Hours* did smear campaigns on Caradori. They questioned only the alleged perpetrators & none of the victims or people with access to evidence. Why?



Some myths don't hurt. Some do

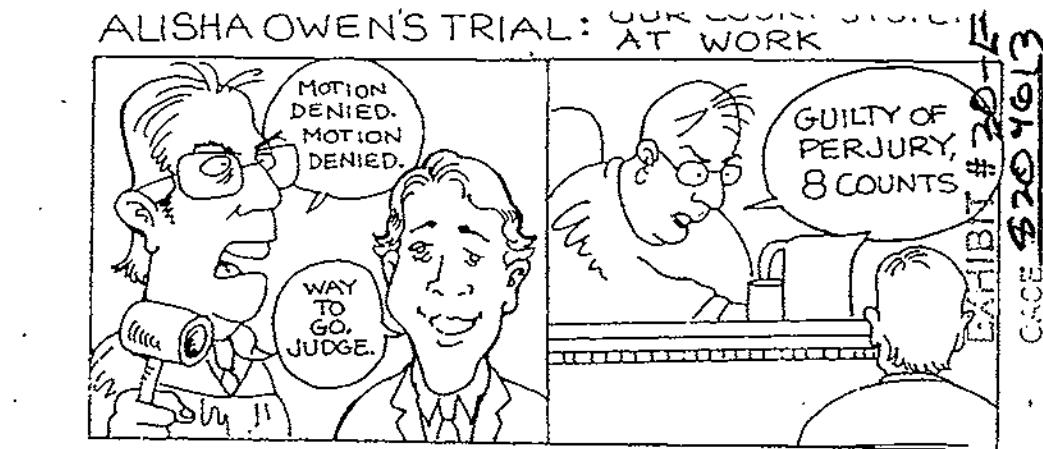
## **PORNOGRAPHY ALWAYS HAS A VICTIM**

Studies show that pornography is almost always an influence in sex crimes. If pornography becomes an addiction "soft porn" leads to "hard core porn" and a desire to act out what they've seen. You have every right to a porn-free

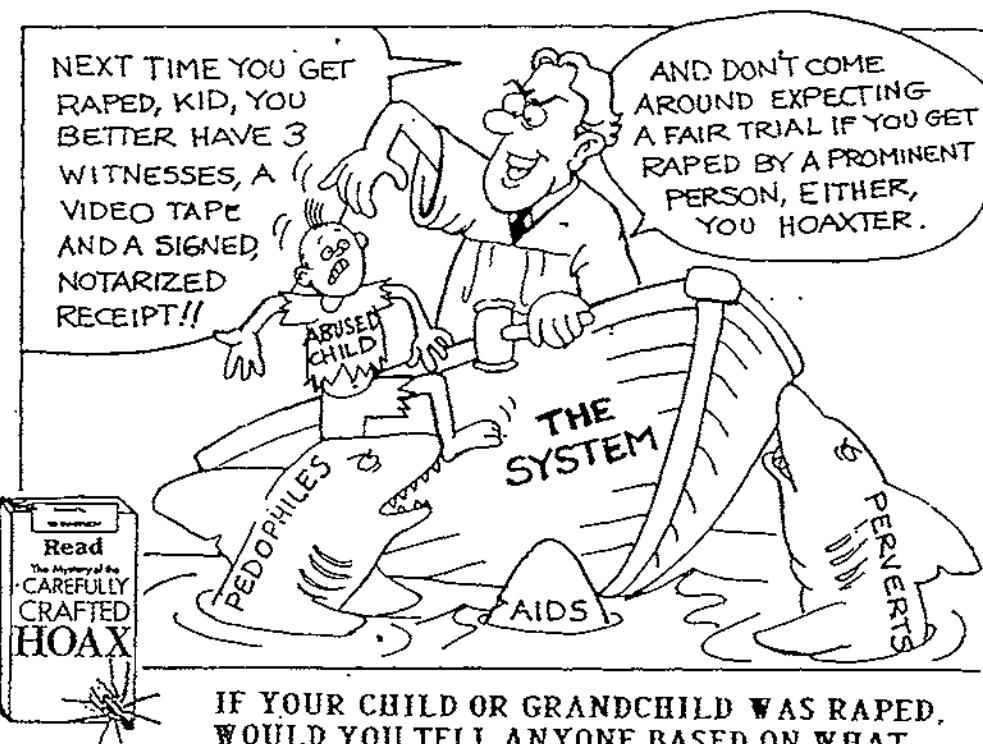
community. Our children should never have to be the target of this "acting out." Let's make a stand to protect them. First Amendment rights were not established to protect materials that incite sexual assault of children.

Every Nebraskan should know the facts. To find out what the media didn't tell you read:

*The Mystery of the Carefully Crafted Hoax*. Send \$6.00 (ppd) to P.O. Box 30165, Lincoln, NE 68503.



WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT FOLKS. ALL THE EVIDENCE IS IN - HEH-HEH- (EXCEPT FOR WHAT WAS SUCCESSFULLY KEPT OUT). SHE'S HAD A TRIAL BY A JURY OF HER PEERS (AND BY THE MEDIA). THE JUSTICE SYSTEM DOES WORK. AND LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU OTHER VICTIMS OUT THERE. KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT OR YOU CAN GO TO JAIL TOO!!



IF YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD WAS RAPED,  
WOULD YOU TELL ANYONE BASED ON WHAT  
HAS HAPPENED TO OTHER VICTIMS?



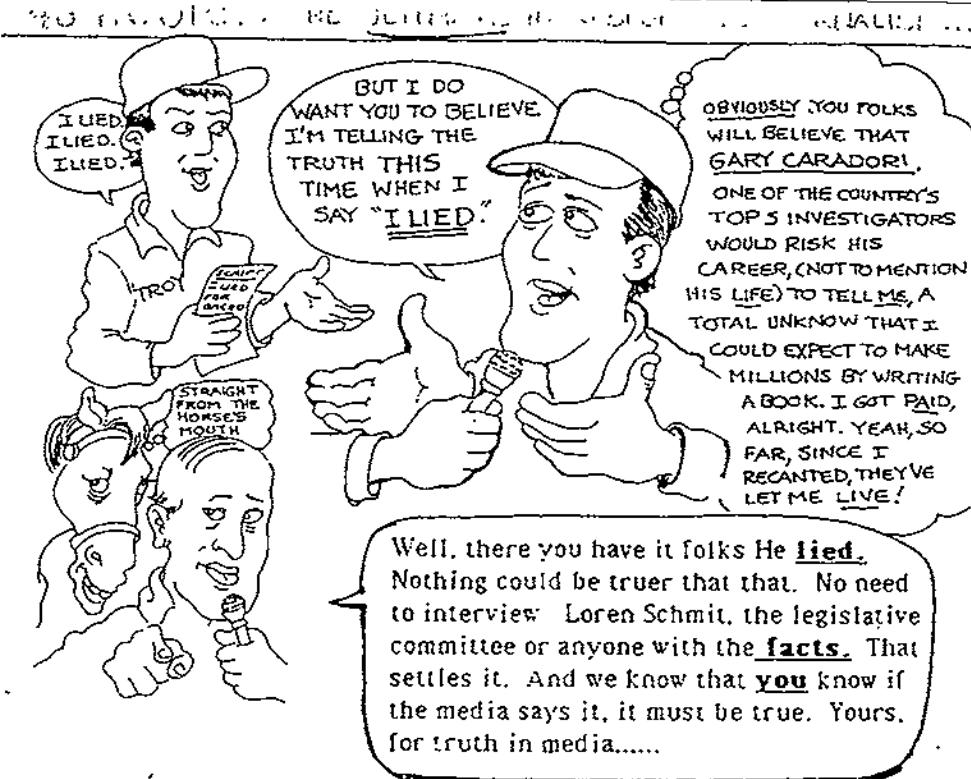
Alisha Owen faces years in jail having been found guilty of perjury. Her crime? Telling the Grand Jury who it was that sexually abused her. Alisha has been portrayed as willingly broadcasting her abuse stories to get money and attention. The truth is, she wanted it kept a secret and only talked when her name was brought up as a victim by others several times. She feared now that some people

knew, she could be killed and believed it safer to tell the warden. (She was in jail for writing bad checks.) Never was there any attempt to find out who did abuse her, if it was not who she said. It has been heretofore unheard of to indict the person bringing the allegations. Alisha's original lawyer, Pamela Vuchetich appears to have collaborated with the FBI while she was supposedly defending Alisha. This was denied as admissible evidence in Alisha's trial. In fact numerous important points of evidence were denied. It seemed all the prosecutor had to do was say "I object" and the Judge, went along with it. Hopes for a fair trial were low from the beginning.



Paul Bonacci was a victim of abuse as a child and teenager. When he told his story to the Grand Jury they refused to believe it and labeled him a liar "incapable of telling the truth." He was charged with perjury. The charges have been dropped, though probably not in the interest of justice, but rather to further suppress the truth by not allowing the facts to come out in court.

When internationally renowned psychiatrist Dr. J.L. Jensen Gerber appeared before the Franklin Investigative committee as an expert witness she testified that she had found Paul B. to have multiple personalities. She had interviewed him for four hours. She believed he was telling the truth. She said, "Multiple personalities don't lie (unless they have a pathological personality). They tend to be more truth telling than the rest of the population, because when they get into something they don't like they switch to a different personality. Paul is unusual because he has a 'computer chip' personality with meticulous attention to detail. This personality keeps track of all the other personalities. Because of this "computer chip" memory Paul has been invaluable in providing details to help locate missing children. He has dedicated his life to helping prevent other children from suffering the same abuse he did. As a very young child he was sexually



abused by a babysitter. At age six a priest sexually abused him. His life became a pattern of abuse. He was flown nationally and internationally to participate in sex parties and forced at gunpoint to have sex with a dead boy. He witnessed children being killed during the making of "snuff films" (a pornographic film in which a child is killed). In one instance a pitch fork was pushed up a boy's rectum till he died. The men watching laughed. He was kept in place by numerous threats to himself or was told his friends or family would be hurt. When he told the Omaha police they laughed. Dr. Jensen Gerber urged Nebraska, "Don't silence him just because the truth is hard to bear. She said, 'I've never seen young people arrested for telling their stories."



7 p.m. each night

## DO AMERICANS CARE HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE MISSING

WATCH ON CABLE ACCESS 26, IOWA CITY

AMERICA FREE PRESS and the VICTORY VIDEO NETWORK  
present:

### AMERICAN GENOCIDE #6 **M.I.A. CHILDREN** MISSING IN AMERICA / MURDERED IN AMERICA

#### Video Presentation and Seminar

TIME: Monday, March 23  
Tuesday, March 24

PLACE: Coralville Public Library  
Farmers Savings Bank

Kalona

#### PARENTS PICTURE YOUR CHILD HERE

VARIOUS MISSING CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATIONS CLAIM BE-TWEEN 2 AND 3.5 MILLION CHILDREN MISSING IN AMERICA IN THE LAST 30 YEARS.

MEMBERS OF THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATOR BEGAN AN INVESTIGATION THAT TURNED UP INDICATIONS OF A NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL A CHILD KIDNAP RING, INVOLVING THE NORTH AMERICAN MAN BOY LOVE ASSOCIATION AND POLITICIANS OF BOTH PARTIES IN NEBRASKA AND NATIONAL

OVER 80 CHILDREN IN THE OMAHA, NE. AREA WERE SAID TO BE PART OF A NATIONAL CHILD PROSTITUTION RING THAT SERVICED EVEN STAFF MEMBERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WHAT HAPPENED TO JOHNNY GOSCH, NOREEN GOSCH EX-PLAINS ON THE NEW VIDEO. A CHILLING STORY.

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Some of the accounts in  
this presentation are  
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# REWARD

is being offered for information leading to  
the safe return of

# Jacob Wetterling

(Stranger Abducted)



Jacob Wetterling was abducted on Sunday, October 22, 1989, from 91st Avenue South of St. Joseph, Minnesota at approximately 9:15 p.m. He and his brother and a friend were approached by a male subject wearing dark clothing, carrying a handgun. Jacob's brother and friend were allowed to leave but Jacob was forced to remain. No vehicle was seen. Jacob is five feet tall, 75 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes, mole on left cheek.

If you have any information, please call the Stearns County Sheriff's Department at 612-251-4240 or Crime Stoppers at 612-255-1301, or toll free 1-800-255-1301.

A reward and search fund has been established and your support would be much appreciated. Your gift of money should be made out and sent to:

Jacob Wetterling Foundation  
P.O. Box 639  
St. Joseph, MN 56374-0639  
612-363-0470

# CALL 1-800-255-1301

Jacob's Hope™ is a registered trademark of the Jacob Wetterling Foundation. Please copy and distribute this flyer as widely as possible.

# The Des Moines Register

DES MOINES, IOWA ■ MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1991 ■ PRICE 50 CENTS

## THE REGISTER'S READERS SAY

### *Why do police ignore Gosch suspect?*

A year ago when Paul Bonacci first shared information about his participation in our son's kidnapping, we, too, were shocked and a little unsure of the information that was coming from this young man.

It was so horrible we didn't want to believe it at first. Then, as the private investigator began to check out and verify all of the information, a picture of what actually happened to our son began to form.

John DeCamp, Paul Bonacci's attorney, shared in a written statement all of Paul's remarks with the FBI office in Omaha. All of this time we hoped and prayed they would make contact with Paul and check for themselves the accuracy of the statements about the kidnapping. Silence from the FBI followed — nothing happened. So we pursued the information, just as parents have always done.

Then all hell broke loose when this story hit the news media. The story was not released by us or our private investigator. However, we had to deal with the effects of this untimely release. Again, we tried to look on the

positive side and hope with this all being out in the open, including the names of the kidnappers, that surely the authorities would then seek out Paul Bonacci and talk to him.

Again, silence — followed by their declaration from their offices that they had decided Paul is not credible on our case, that due to a multiple-personality disorder he has fabricated all of the information about Johnny.

If that is true, how was Paul able to select the correct photograph from a line-up of photos and tell us about the local man in Des Moines named Sami and his involvement in our case? Paul has correctly given us his first and last name. This man has been a suspect in the case for four years. This is quite a coincidence.

If this terrible tragedy could happen to our son, and the years of pain and work to solve it could be thrown away when a confession finally comes in the case by the authorities, it could happen to anyone.

Those responsible for our son's kidnapping are still free. We know who they are at this time, but nothing

would prevent them from kidnapping again, especially when they see and hear news reports that authorities will do nothing to help.

— John and Norton Gosch,  
1004 45th St., West Des Moines.

Isn't it appalling that both the West Des Moines police and the DCI both initially felt that the trip to Omaha to interview John Bonacci, who admits involvement in the abduction of John Gosch, was not worth the effort?

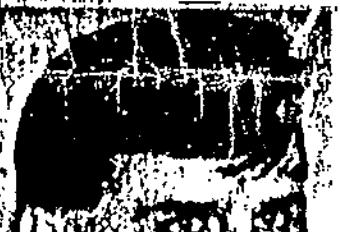
How could the police dismiss even the slightest clue and refuse to act? Only after WHO-TV aired the story and The Register printed the same did the police finally decide to act. Had it not have been for the news media, the lead would not be investigated.

The police should not have to be embarrassed into performing their job. It is a tragedy both for the Gosch family and for the public that the media must have to step in and expose the laxity of the West Des Moines police and the Division of Criminal Investigation.

— Hugh Hammond,  
2905 38th St., Des Moines.

**"INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT"**

Inmate asks



Bonacci was admitted to the Lincoln Correctional Center June 8 to begin serving a sentence for sexually abusing three boys. He is due to be released in October 1992.

# Des Moines Register ignores FRANKLIN CREDIT UNION INVESTIGATION BY Nebraska Legislature

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## Prisoner offers possible lead in Gosch mystery

By FRANK SANTIAGO  
Omaha Staff Writer

Is Johnny Gosch mixed up in a tawdry sex slave and pornography ring?

After nine years of relentless rumors, stories were surfacing last week that the abducted newspaper carrier had been taken by pedophiles into a grotesque underworld of child pornography and violence.

This time the parents were relating the information. John and Noreen Gosch said it had recently come from an "informant" who claims he helped with the abduction and had been with Gosch after the kidnapping.

While bizarre in a case studded with the bizarre, the account had a familiar ring. It sounded like the sex-drugs-satanism rumors that rocked Omaha recently, stemming from the collapse of the Franklin Community Federal Credit Union.

The similarity is no coincidence.

Source of the recent Johnny Gosch stories is Paul Bonacci, 23, an inmate at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln who is serving time for three separate convictions of sexually abusing a minor.

Bonacci provided elaborate tales of drug use, sex and violence in Omaha to investigators and a grand jury. There was no mention of Gosch at the time.

After hearing his stories and debunking allegations of other witnesses, the grand jury declared Bonacci "was perhaps the most pathetic witness to appear."

Bonacci claimed during that investigation that he had multiple personalities, at least 28, and that he had sex with some of the city's most powerful men. The grand jury noted: "His psychiatrist doubts that he can tell the truth."

"His many inconsistencies and contradictions render his testimony unbelievable and necessitate his indictment for perjury."

Bonacci was charged with perjury, but the charges were dropped. Authorities said his mental state was a factor in their decision.

In an unusual comment, the grand jury chastised Bonacci's lawyer for allowing him to come before the

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 3B

## Prisoner offers [redacted]

GOSCH

Continued from Page One  
grand jury in the first place.

Told of Bonacci's claims about Gosch, James Martin Davis, an Omaha lawyer involved in the early stages of the Omaha investigation, said, "This guy is a pathological liar. There are always people like this coming in and advancing the hopes of the family. Maybe there is a grain of truth. The problem is this person has cried wolf so many times, it's hardly worth any kind of belief."

But Noreen and John Gosch, aware of Bonacci's past, say his claims about their son are believable and have produced some startling results in the investigation in Des Moines.

John Gosch, who met with Bonacci at the prison, said, "He seemed sincere."

Bonacci has told the Gosches that he participated in the abduction of Johnny Gosch. He contends it was carried out by four men, including a local man who made the arrangements and made a substantial amount of money on the deal. Johnny, then 12, was taken off his newspaper route on Sept. 5, 1982, a few blocks from his West Des Moines home and whisked away undetected.

The Gosches say they have been told Johnny was handed to his captors for child pornography.

The Gosches say Bonacci has provided good information on the Des Moines "source" and has identified his picture. They decline to identify the man, but say their private investigation has accumulated a variety of

information added to  
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LINCOLN JOURNAL STARDate: LINCOLN, Ne.  
Edition: 2-6-99

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Indexing:

# Mom says son, linked to alleged sex ring in '80s, returned in '97

BY MICHELLE CARR and BUTCH MABIN  
Lincoln Journal Star

Noreen Gosch, mother of an Iowa newspaper carrier abducted in 1982, made a startling revelation Friday in a Lincoln courtroom: She talked with her missing son two years ago.

"Mom, do something," she said her son, Johnny Gosch, pleaded during their visit in her Des Moines, Iowa, apartment in March 1997.

Gosch told of the conversation in her testimony during a U.S. District Court hearing on a lawsuit against former Franklin Credit Union Manager Larry King. The civil suit was brought by Paul A. Bonacci, who claims he was sexually assaulted by King and others in a child-sex ring. Gosch was asked to testify about her discussions with Bonacci, who revealed in 1991 that he helped abduct her 12-year-old son and force the boy into a child-sex ring.

King was sentenced by a federal judge in 1991 to 15 years in prison in connection with his misuse of the Omaha credit union's funds. In the meantime, a judge dismissed all of the defendants except King in the lawsuit filed by Bonacci in 1991.

When King failed to respond to the lawsuit, Senior U.S. District Judge Warren K. Urbom entered a default judgment. The hearing Friday was to determine the amount of damages the judge could levy against King. Urbom will determine damages later.



GOSCH

More on FRANKLIN, Page 4A

## Franklin/Gosch says son returned in '97

Continued from Page 1A

In an interview after the hearing, Gosch said she has not seen her son since their hour-long encounter. Johnny, who was 28, told her he could not reveal his whereabouts because he feared for his life.

She said she was stunned to see her son at her door late that night. "For a long time, I thought that maybe he had his life taken," she said.

And although she had not seen him for 15 years, she immediately recognized his face when she looked through the peephole. "You're alive," she said to him.

Johnny and a friend, whom he declined to identify, came to seek her help in making sure the people responsible for the alleged sex ring were arrested, Gosch said. He provided her with names and other information, she said.

Her son shared some of his experiences in the child-sex ring, Gosch said, but did not provide details. "Johnny was an electric kid. He was so spontaneous. He always had a good smile," Gosch said. "What he is now is angry and bitter. He feels like he lost half his life."

Gosch believes her son was part of a global, organized ring that used children to make pornography and to compromise politicians. She has launched a private investigation in which more than 35 children have been interviewed about their experiences in the ring.

It was difficult and painful to watch her son walk out the door that March night. "But part of being a mother is to do what is best at the time," she said. "He won't come forward because he doesn't trust the system. The only one looking for him was his mother. Even his father quit."

Noreen and John Gosch Sr. were divorced in 1993. Efforts to reach him Friday were unsuccessful.

The only reason she publicly revealed the visit with her son was because she was asked under oath during Friday's hearing, she said. During the interview, she expressed frustration with law enforcement efforts in her son's case.

John Sarcone, Iowa's Polk County Attorney, said investigators checked out Bonacci's story, but concluded it was not credible.

Bonacci testified Friday that he was with several other men connected to the child-sex ring when they took Johnny from a sidewalk corner as he picked up issues of the Des Moines Sunday Register to deliver in his neighborhood.

Bonacci sued King and a number of others, including the Catholic Diocese of Omaha, a former Omaha police chief, a state judge and former Omaha television personality Peter Citron. Among the numerous allegations, Bonacci alleged the defendants either sexually assaulted him and others or worked to cover-up a child prostitution ring he claimed involved dozens of young people.

A Douglas County grand jury that investigated the Franklin case in 1980 called similar allegations raised by several young people, including Bonacci, a hoax. The grand jury determined King had spent money to procure men in their late teens or early 20s for sex, but not underage boys.

During her testimony, Bonacci's attorney, John DeCamp, told Noreen Gosch her statements sounded incredible.

Replied Gosch: "Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. The people who say they don't believe better hope to hell they don't find themselves in my situation."

During the hearing, Bonacci, 31, told Urbom he continues to suffer from insomnia, nightmares and multiple-personality disorder he developed after years of sexual abuse.

"I have bad dreams at night that I don't even want to tell my wife about," said Bonacci, who was arrested in 1989 and convicted on three counts of child sexual assault. He was released from the Lancaster Correctional Center in October 1992.

"It's hard for me to keep a job," he testified. "I'm a Christian.... I'm trying to live my life as I should."

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Page 3B  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date: 10/28/2000  
 Edition: Daily

Title:  
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 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
 Character:  
 or  
 Classification: 7  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Noreen Gosch: My son is alive

By FRANK SANTIAGO  
 REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Noreen Gosch said Friday that her missing son is alive and "I get reports about him from investigative sources."

The West Des Moines woman said the newspaper carrier, abducted from his route near his home Sept. 5, 1982, was in hiding and "terribly afraid" to come forward.

She said new information about him has come from her own sources. She declined to identify those sources or say where Johnny Gosch was, a response she said she had promised her son.

"They would not benefit from the publicity," she said, referring to

other missing young men including Eugene Martin, kidnapped Aug. 12, 1984, from his newspaper route in Des Moines.

Gosch claimed her son is privy to information about child pornographers who she said abducted him. The release of that information would endanger him, she said.

Authorities have been skeptical about the child pornography claim. Investigators say they have been unable to find a trace of the young men and don't know if they are alive.

Gosch's comments came during



Gosch

a seminar of the Academy of Private Investigators at Des Moines Area Community College. About 40 private investigators and law enforcement officials reviewed the cases together but drew no conclusions about what happened or if the two cases were connected.

Noreen Gosch stunned the public last year when she said her son visited her at her West Des Moines apartment in 1997. He would have been 27 years old. She told no one of the visit, she said.

Asked Friday if she would consent to polygraph or voice stress test, Gosch said "absolutely not."

"I have no reason to. I have done my own investigation and don't

have to prove anything to anyone who doesn't believe me."

Don Martin, an observer at the meeting and father of Eugene, said child pornographers may have been involved in both cases "but it's only a possibility."

"Child pornographers pass pictures around. Johnny's and Eugene's picture have been printed so many times you wonder why no one has made the connection," he said.

Martin said he has no information that his son, who would be 29, is alive.

"It's been so long that I don't know if these cases are ever going to be solved," he said.

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 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, IA

Date: 09/07/2006  
 Edition: Daily

Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH

Character:  
 or  
 Classification: 7A  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

## Police still looking into Gosch link to photos

West Des Moines police say they continue to investigate photos that appear to show Johnny Gosch, the West Des Moines boy who disappeared at age 12 in 1982.

Noreen Gosch said she received the photos the last weekend of August. She told The Des Moines Register she believed two photos showed her son.



Gosch

Gosch turned the photos over to West Des Moines police, who then sent them to the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation's crime lab. Lt. Jeff Miller said the department has not yet received information from the DCI regarding the legitimacy of the photos.

"It's a priority case in our opinion," Miller said on Wednesday.

Johnny Gosch vanished before dawn on Sunday, Sept. 5, 1982. He was last seen picking up copies of the Register for delivery. His wagon, full of papers, was found two blocks from the Gosches' home.

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**The Des Moines Register**  
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Date: 09/22/2006  
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Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH

Character:  
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Classification: 7A  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Ex-investigator: No proof photos aren't of Gosch

A Florida sheriff's office  
can't prove they predate  
the 1980s D.M. case.

By LEE ROOD  
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

She made news around the globe, telling how the photos of three youths who were bound and gagged arrived on her doorstep in late August — 24 years after her son Johnny disappeared.

Some doubted Noreen Gosch's claims that the photos included images of her long-lost 12-year-old after a Florida investiga-



Gosch

## On the Web

See a copy of the letter that Des Moines police received tipping them to a Florida connection to the photos at [DesMoinesRegister.com](http://DesMoinesRegister.com).

tor publicly debunked her theory last week.

But that investigator now admits that the Hillsborough County, Fla., sheriff's office cannot find any evidence proving the photos were actually from a case he worked in 1979, as he recalled.

"It's been like searching for a needle in a haystack," former detective Nelson Zalva said Thursday. "We're talking cases that were kept

See GOSCH, Page 5B

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# Ex-investigator: No proof photos are not of Gosch

GOSCH, from Page 1B

on index cards here."

Zalva said he wished any of the youths in the photos or the anonymous person who originally tipped police to his years-old investigation would step forward to help prove the photos predated Johnny Gosch's disappearance.

Noreen Gosch, meanwhile, was back on the offensive with authorities this week, urging police to explore any and all leads related to the photos. Among them:

- Gosch said — and police have confirmed — that the photos she received were posted for some time on a Web site, [www.jacobstale.com](http://www.jacobstale.com), that features scantily clad adolescent boys. Gosch said as far as she knows, neither state nor federal authorities were investigating the site's origins or questioning its creator, even though it appears the site caters to pedophiles. (Some of the photos that Gosch believed to be of her son have since been removed.)

- Jim Rothstein, a former New York police detective who has helped Gosch follow leads, said they have been in contact with an Illinois woman who claims to have been a victim in the same sex ring with Johnny Gosch and who positively identified the former newspaper carrier in the pictures. Rothstein said the Springfield, Ill., woman's story is similar to other reports he heard about a sex ring operating out of Chicago, and her story deserves investigating.

- Gosch said she also received a photograph of a man that others have claimed was one of the "perpetrators who molested her son." She said she wants authorities to investigate the photograph's origins. Even so, she would not say how the photo came into her possession.

Jeff Tarpinian, a spokesman for the FBI in Omaha, Neb.,

could not be reached Thursday for comment.

Lt. Jeff Miller, a spokesman for the West Des Moines Police Department, said police remain in contact with state and federal authorities, but he said he didn't believe any new leads in the case were being pursued at the moment.

At The Des Moines Register's request, Miller released to the media a copy of the anonymous letter postmarked Sept. 6 from Tampa, Fla., alerting Des Moines police to Zalva's old investigation.

"Gentlemen," it read. "Someone has played a reprehensible joke on a grieving mother. The photo in question is not one of her son but of three boys in Tampa, Florida about 1979-80, challenging each other to an escape contest."

There was an investigation concerned with that picture, made by the Hillsborough County sheriff's office. No charges were filed, and no wrongdoing was established. The lead detective on the case was named Zalva.

Although workers at the sheriff's department reviewed more than 300 cases from 1979 on microfilm, Zalva said, they cannot find the incident report or the photocopies of photos from the criminal investigation that he said eventually led nowhere.

The digitally reproduced photos sent to Gosch and several people close to the case the weekend of Aug. 27 generated a surge of public

interest and a range of claims by individuals who purported to know what happened to the paperboy whose face became synonymous with child abductions in the 1980s.

Gosch said it's important police look into all allegations, regardless of how strange they might seem.

She notes that Johnny Gosch is not the only Midwestern youth still missing since the 1980s.

Eugene Martin and Mark Allen, both of the Des Moines area, and Jacob Wetterling of St. Joseph, Minn., also disappeared.

"People get real caught up in what I say, but I think maybe they've forgotten what's like to be me," she said. "I really thought the police would jump into this with both feet, but they haven't."

"Here you have a kidnapped child on a pedophilia Web site. ... C'mon, boys, let's get busy."

The Register has not published the photos that Gosch said she received last month because it was not clear where the images came from or who the boys in the photos were.

Reporter Lee Rood can be reached at (515) 284-8549 or [lrood@dmreg.com](mailto:lrood@dmreg.com)

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# 25 years later, mom persists in search

The disappearance of Johnny Gosch at age 12 has sparked bizarre conspiracy theories.

By LEE ROOD  
REGISTER STAFFWRITER

If you have lived in Iowa for any length of time, you know the story: Paperboy vanishes before dawn on Sunday, Sept. 5, 1982. Left behind is a wagon filled with papers but no clue as to his whereabouts.

Twenty-five years have passed since then. By now the name once synonymous with milk cartons and missing children is known more for bizarre conspiracy theories that ripple around the country, even the world.

Where are you, Johnny Gosch?

West Des Moines police don't know. The FBI here has stopped looking.

Still, Noreen Gosch, the mother who clings to hope long after others have let go, continues to believe her son — who would now be 37 — is out there somewhere.

"I have never given up the investigation into all aspects of this kidnapping," Gosch, who is out of town, wrote in



REGISTER FILE PHOTO

This picture shows Johnny Gosch days before he vanished in September 1982.

## Missing Iowa youths

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children lists 11 youths from Iowa as missing, including three "endangered runaways" this year.

They are:

**Samantha Veralis**  
Climaco, 15, Latino, missing since June 6 from Des Moines. She is 5'5" and 180 lbs.

**Jennifer Anne Hass,**  
17, white, missing since Aug. 9 from Davenport. She is 5'4" and 200 lbs.

**Alissa Anne Walls,** 18, white, missing since May 5 from Tiffin. She is 5'7" and 145 lbs.

For more information, go to [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com).

See GOSCH, Page 3B

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) **1B**  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, IA

Date: 09/05/2007  
Edition: Daily

Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH

Character:

or

Classification: 7A

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

OMAHA FIG

YES

NO

① 7A-OM-38929 - 1070  
1 - 80-OM-45011-A

# Woman carries on search for son for 25 years

## 25 lost years

Johnny Gosch, who would be 37 this year, disappeared 25 years ago today.

### TIMELINE

- SEPT. 5, 1982** — 12-year-old Johnny Gosch, a West Des Moines newspaper carrier, disappears about 6 a.m. Sunday as he begins his newspaper route.
- NOV. 20, 1982** — Dissatisfied with police efforts, the Gosches mount an unprecedented private campaign to find their son.
- AUG. 12, 1984** — Eugene Martin, 13, disappears from his paper route in a south Des Moines neighborhood, about seven miles from where Gosch disappeared. Like Johnny, Eugene was delivering the Sunday Register.
- AUG. 16, 1984** — President Ronald Reagan calls The Des Moines Register to offer help and extend "regrets and sympathies" in the disappearances of Eugene and Johnny.
- AUG. 23, 1984** — Anderson-Erickson Dairy announces plans to reproduce posters of Eugene and Johnny on milk cartons, beginning a practice that will be duplicated across the nation.
- SEPT. 5, 1992** — Ten years after Johnny's disappearance, police and family continue to search for answers. File cabinets of information and dozens of so-called sightings produce no suspects and no leads.
- APRIL 9, 1993** — John and Noreen Gosch divorce after 26 years of marriage. They cite the burden of the case but both vow to continue the search for their son.
- MARCH 1996** — A man from Liberia, one of scores of people who claim to have information about Johnny, contacts Johnny's father in West Des Moines to say he has seen Johnny and Eugene in Liberia. A police investigation finds no proof.
- FEBRUARY 1999** — Noreen Gosch testifies in a federal court case in Lincoln, Neb., that her son visited her in March 1997. In the court case — surrounding sex-ring allegations as part of the Franklin Credit Union scandal — she says Johnny, then approximately 27 years old, appeared at her door with a man she had never seen before. She says he detailed breaking away from a human-trafficking ring.
- AUG. 27, 2006** — Noreen Gosch says photos of three bound-and-gagged teenage boys that were left on her porch "absolutely" feature her son. A Florida investigator says the photos predate Johnny's disappearance.

Source: Des Moines Register archives

THE REGISTER

Posters of Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin were printed nationwide, including on bags at this Rochester, Minn., grocery store in 1984, in an attempt to find the boys who vanished in 1982 and 1984 while on their paper carrier routes in Iowa.



GOSCH, from Page 1B

an e-mail Tuesday to The Des Moines Register. "Johnny is not forgotten," she wrote.

Much has changed since Johnny and, in 1984, fellow Iowa paperboy Eugene Martin vanished.

Nancy McBride, national safety director for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said she can recall waiting anxiously 25 years ago as missing children fliers were slowly printed and dispersed to authorities by Federal Express. Back then, she said, the FBI didn't even accept reports of missing children.

Today, missing child reports are required by federal law to be entered into the National Crime Information Center within two hours, she said.

"We now know that one in six kids featured in a photo on a flier or on television is recovered," McBride said. "It shows that the public really does look for missing children."

Amber Alerts and other tools allow authorities to inform the public much sooner about a missing child, a kidnapper's description or a suspect's vehicle. The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, signed into law last year, also provides much greater scrutiny of child sex offenders.

In the early 1990s, the recovery rate of missing children was 62 percent, McBride said. Now it's 94 percent.

Theories about what happened to Johnny Gosch abound on the Internet, but strong leads have always been scarce.

West Des Moines police never arrested any suspects, even though new tips — many of them generated by Noreen Gosch — surfaced every few years.

"Any lead is good to get, whether generated by Ms. Gosch or someone else," said West Des Moines police spokesman Lt. Jeff Miller. "Unfortunately, there are a lot of people out there who spread misinformation and who would take advantage of Ms. Gosch. But nothing she has ever done has hindered the case."

Miller was a young officer when Johnny, then 12 years old, disappeared two blocks from his home. From 1993 to 1997, Miller was a lead inves-

tigator on the case, responsible for pursuing all tips, which also meant staying in touch with Noreen Gosch.

Gosch has insisted publicly for years that her son was the victim of a "human trafficking" sex ring. The boy's father, John Gosch, largely backed out of the public limelight after he and Noreen Gosch divorced in 1993. He could not be reached for this article.

At johnnygosch.com, Noreen Gosch tells of receiving reports confirming that her son is still alive, "living under another identity ... still fearing for his life after escaping from the network a number of years ago."

In 1999, she testified in a federal court case that her son visited her in March 1997. The testimony came after Paul A. Bonacci, a witness in an Omaha credit union embezzlement scandal, said he personally participated in Johnny's abduction.

Bonacci also implicated public figures in his allegations, and was subsequently sent to prison for perjury. Since then, however, he has received a \$1 million judgment for abuse he suffered as a youth under the ringleader of the Franklin Credit Union scandal.

Last year, Noreen Gosch raised more eyebrows about the long-cold case after she said photos of a boy bound and gagged appeared out of nowhere on her doorstep.

She said then — and maintains still — that the images were of her son shortly after his abduction, and on her Web site she writes that they were eventually tracked to a Russian pedophile Web site and reported to the FBI.

But a Florida investigator said at the time that the photos stemmed from a case he investigated years ago that predated Johnny's disappearance. After that, West Des Moines police quit tracking the photos' origins.

Noreen Gosch knows some have grown to doubt her theories, but she doesn't care.

"There is a message I carry at all times and that is the constant awareness people must have concerning the safety of their children," she wrote to the Register. "This is not the 'good ole days' anymore; these predators will grab children anytime and anywhere."

# Non Family Abduction

John Gosch



Birth: 11/12/1969  
Missing: 9/5/1982  
Age Now: 33 yrs  
Race: White  
Sex: Male  
Hair: Lt. Brown  
Eyes: Blue  
Ht: 5'07"  
Wt: 140 lbs  
  
Missing From:  
West Des Moines  
IA  
United States

Age Progression by NCMEC 3/10/2003

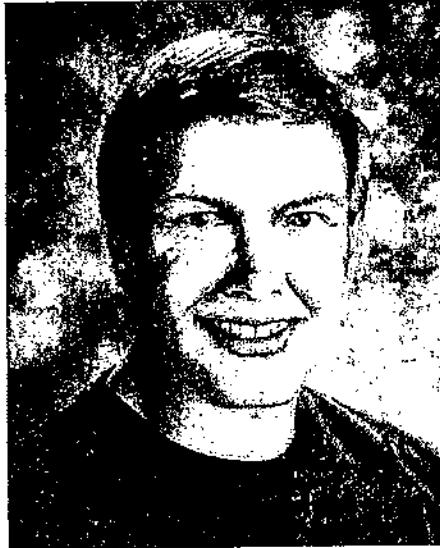


John's photo is shown age-progressed to 30 years. He was last seen delivering newspapers. He has facial freckles, a gap between his front teeth, a birthmark on his left cheek, and a horseshoe-shaped scar on his tongue.



**ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT**  
**The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**  
**1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST) OR**

West Des Moines Police Dept. (Iowa) - Missing Persons Unit - 1-515-223-3211  
Or Your Local FBI

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Supporters](#) [Training](#) [Site Search](#) [News Media](#)**View Poster**

Case Handled By:



National Center for Missing &amp; Exploited Children

*WJD H2YOW***JOHN DAVID GOSCH****Case Type:** Non Family Abduction**DOB:** Nov 12, 1969**Missing Date:** Sep 5, 1982**Age Now:** 41**Missing City:** DES MOINES**Missing State :** IA**Missing Country:** United States**Case Number:** NCMC601763**Circumstances:** John's photo is shown age-progressed to 40 years. He was last seen delivering newspapers. He has facial freckles, a gap between his front teeth, a birthmark on his left cheek, and a horseshoe-shaped scar on his tongue.**Age Progression****Sex:** Male**Race:** White**Height:** 5'7" (170 cm)**Weight:** 140 lbs (64 kg)**Hair Color:** Lt. Brown**Eye Color:** Blue[Contact Us](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Site Search](#) [Terms of Use](#)

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 5M

Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 3/31/83

Edition: Morning

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI checks out Texas sighting of John Gosch

By MARK HORSTMEYER

Register Staff Writer

The FBI is investigating a possible sighting of Johnny Gosch in an Arlington, Texas, pizza parlor.

The sighting a week ago was reported by Todd Bequette, formerly of Carter Lake, Ia. Bequette, now 22 and living in Arlington, was himself abducted in Omaha in 1974 when he was 13 years old. He was found 17½ months later in Clarkson, Wash.

Bequette's parents, Gerald and Bev Bequette of Carter Lake, have visited with John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines, parents of Johnny, who was 12 when he disappeared last Sept. 5.

There are similarities in the two disappearances. Among them is the fact that both families hired the same private detective, Dennis Whelan, who found Todd Bequette.

FBI agent Rod Kirklighter said Wednesday authorities are treating Bequette's report as a "possible sighting."

Four employees of the ShowBiz Pizza Place told the agent they saw the same boy. "It's a long shot and there's a lot of room here — the power of suggestion and that type of thing," Kirklighter said.

Gerald Shanahan, chief of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said the Texas sighting has been one of at least 100 such reports.

"Every time your hopes are buoyed," Shanahan said. "I don't want to throw cold water on it, but we'll keep checking until we get the one. Hopefully this is the one."

Johnny Gosch's photo has been given to newspapers in the Arlington area, Kirklighter said. "Someone may have seen an individual and have a car license number or an address." So far, he has not received any response.

John Gosch said: "If the boy is alone, you don't get excited." If the boy is with someone, he added, then the family becomes more interested because they believe Johnny was abducted.

Title: UNSUB; JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
or

Classification: 7A-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha



JOHNNY  
GOSCH

7A-1053-5013-19

MARCH 31	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>RD</i>	FILED <i>RD</i>
FBI - OMAHA	
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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 1 and 5A  
 Des Moines Sunday Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 3/27/83  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB; JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

REGISTER PHOTO BY BOB MODERSOHN



Noreen and John Gosch sit in front of a poster of their son, Johnny, 13, who has been missing since Sept. 5, 1982. The Gosches request that anyone with information about the boy call them at (515) 225-7456.

7A-10536 Sub A-20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 27 1983	
FBI - DES MOINES	

FBI/DOJ

# A story of sadness and survival

By SHERRY RICCIARDI

Register Staff Writer  
Columbus, 1983, Des Moines Register  
and Tribune Company

Along with the stylishly curly hair, the fashionable clothing and the cool facade of a mannequin, Noreen Gosch wears the scars of a life marked by bad fortune.

But nothing, she says — not the death of her father when she was a teen-ager nor being widowed with two babies at age 21 — prepared her for the tragedy that has shadowed the Gosch family since Sept. 5, 1982.

On that warm Sunday morning, the Gosches' 12-year-old son, Johnny, vanished without a trace when he went out to deliver newspapers in a peaceful West Des Moines neighborhood where violence exists mainly on TV.

Dozens of stories have been written about the boy's disappearance, about the mystery man seen talking with him that morning, about the man's two-tone blue car and about Johnny's beloved dog, Gretchen, who returned home without him.

But little is known about the private side of the Gosch family — about their life before Johnny's disappearance, about how they have survived in the six

months they say "have seemed like six years to us."

Members of the family — Noreen, John, son Joe, 18, a Valley High School senior, and daughter Chris, 19, a college junior — have withstood moments of sadness that overwhelmed them without warning.

"Everyone cries at times. . . . One day I was going to cook a Chinese meal, and I took out my Chinese cookbook and opened the inside cover. Johnny bought it for me for Christmas the year before, and there was a little note from him inside. Those things are like a double-edged sword. . . . It can cut you right in two," Noreen Gosch said.

She and her husband have been ripped by public criticism that arises in part, they believe, from the fact that "we don't cry or look sad enough in public," she said, her blue eyes flashing with anger.

It has been Noreen Gosch who has taken the brunt of

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 5A

# Gosch family has been showered with kindness — and cruelty

## GOSCH

Continued from Page One

the criticism. "My husband travels a lot for his job, so I'm the one people reach," she said. "I've been criticized for speaking out too much. I've actually been criticized for taking the time to look good.

"People would rather see me arrive in public without makeup, with my hair matted and wearing a bathrobe. People don't feel I care enough for Johnny because I don't break down and cry.... A lot of people would like to see us become emotional wrecks and babble like idiots on TV, but we have resolved to maintain our dignity.

"I won't melt like a marshmallow. What good would that do Johnny?"

Said John Gosch: "We get up every day trying to figure out what we can do today to get a step closer.... There's no book that tells the parents of missing children how to react."

### "No. 1 Mom"

Noreen Gosch's eyes match the aqua blue jogging suit she had donned after work. She poured hot apple cider; the telephone rang every 30 minutes or so; a clock chimed in the background; Gretchen, Johnny's dachshund, lay quietly under the table that was laden with Johnny Gosch posters, newspaper clippings and the ever-present tape recorder that records every call.

Around her neck, she wears a gold heart that says, "No. 1 Mom." She said it was a Mother's Day gift from Johnny last year.

"We still get up in the morning expecting to see Johnny coming down the hall.... At first it's like a dream, then it hits us all over again," she said.

"When I can't sleep at night, I walk over and sit in Johnny's room, not to be mad or shed buckets of tears but to remind myself what we have to do."

The conversation gradually shifts around to her and her life before her marriage to John Gosch 15 years ago.

She grew up on a farm near Grand Mound in eastern Iowa, the oldest of six children. She was only 15 when her father died after a lingering illness. She called it the turning point in her life.

"I had to buckle down and take responsibility at an early age. I dropped out of school for a while, but I did my school work at home and still maintained an A average. I started working when I was 15 and graduated from high school on time."

In high school, Noreen Gosch was a cheerleader and acted in school plays. Married at 19, she worked as a secretary. Her first husband died of cancer two years later, leaving her with a 10-month-old son, Joseph, and 2-year-old daughter, Christine.

Not long after her husband's death, a tornado hit the young widow's mobile home near Grand Mound and destroyed all her belongings.

She suffered broken ribs and cuts on her face from flying glass. The children were unhurt, but "all we had was what we wore on our backs."

### Bizarre Rumors Fly

It was her earlier marriage, Noreen Gosch said, that led to a bizarre rumor that her first husband was alive and had returned to take Johnny. The Gosches produced his death certificate to show he died in 1965.

Another rumor circulated saying that Johnny was adopted and used his paper route money to run away to be with his real parents. Soon after

Noreen and John were married, John adopted the two oldest children. Johnny is their natural son, and they have a birth certificate from St. Luke's Hospital in Davenport to prove it.

The Gosches say Johnny's bank account was untouched and his wallet was found in his room the day he vanished.

John and Noreen Gosch, both 39, met in the Quad-Cities and married in 1981. Noreen said John is one of 14 children. — "He never had anything given to him, either." Like Noreen, John also grew up on a farm, near Auburn in western Iowa. He attended barber school and served a hitch in the Marine Corps.

For five years they lived in Eldridge, where Noreen babysat and sold bakery goods to earn extra cash. A job transfer took them to Minnesota; they arrived in the Des Moines area eight years ago.

John is sales director for Carpenter Sales Inc., a Bondurant fertilizer company. Noreen works as a district secretary for Economics Laboratory Inc. and teaches yoga classes in West Des Moines.

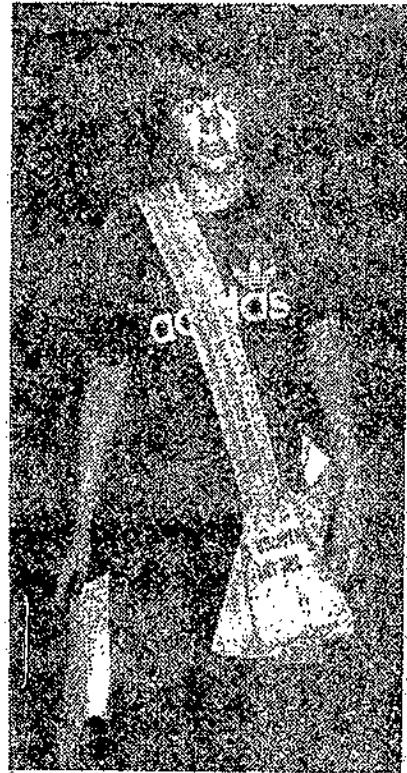
The Gosches cite statistics showing that 90 percent of the parents of missing children divorce because of the strain on the marriage, or end up on alcohol or drugs to ease the pain.

"We have decided to come out of this stronger," John Gosch said during an interview in the front room of their modern, two-story home at 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines.

### No Christmas Tree

On Christmas Day last year, they painted a bedroom and washed drapes "to keep from going nuts," Noreen Gosch said. "We didn't put up a tree. The children said, 'Without Johnny we don't want Christmas.' We spent a silent day."

It has only been in the past few



**Johnny Gosch**  
*Missing six months.*

weeks that the family has been able to sit down together and eat at the table Johnny used to share with them.

"It was too painful to see the empty chair," Noreen Gosch said. "It was the marking of six months that did it. I just decided that we had to make some type of adjustment . . . return to some type of routine. It was not good for any of us, for our health or our emotional balance."

The Gosches described their last evening with Johnny, who stood 5 feet, 7 inches tall and weighed 145 pounds the day he disappeared.

It was a happy occasion, they remember, because daughter Chris brought a boyfriend to dinner. The Gosches cooked a roast on the outdoor

grill. Johnny was excited about starting junior high school, and the kids sat around talking about that, his parents recall. He talked about joining the computer club and working his way into theater productions some day.

After dinner, the young people went outside to roughhouse with a football and basketball. Noreen Gosch called them in later for a piece of homemade apple pie.

Around 10:15 p.m., she said, Johnny announced: "I have to go to bed. I have to get the papers out in the morning."

"He came over and kissed me. I can still see his little face as he rounded the corner and yelled goodnight one more time to us. It was the last time we saw him."

#### Outing Was Planned

The family had planned a picnic and a day of water skiing and boating at Saylorville Lake that Sunday. Johnny had invited his best friend along.

It was common for John Gosch to accompany his son on the Sunday paper route to help with the heavier load, but he didn't on that morning last September.

One of the Gosches' recurring complaints about West Des Moines police and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation arises from the探bers' insistence from the beginning that Johnny might be a runaway. John Gosch said that just a week ago, a police officer asked him if Johnny might have cashed in a life insurance policy and used the money to leave home.

"Johnny didn't even know he had one," Gosch said.

Noreen Gosch said her son saved money from his paper route to buy the things he wanted, such as a motor scooter and a pair of Adidas shoes to wear to school.

"Johnny bought those shoes a week

before he disappeared. If our son would have entertained thoughts of running away, he would have taken those shoes. . . . They meant the world to him," she said.

The red, white and blue Adidas shoes, along with a pair of Johnny's favorite blue jeans, a shirt and underwear, are packed in a suitcase that sits on his bed along with unopened Christmas and birthday gifts. The suitcase was packed in October so the Gosches could leave on a moment's notice should their son be found.

The Gosches theorize that Johnny was abducted by two men. "It was slick and highly organized. I think they plan their abductions — indicators point to that," said Noreen Gosch. "We've done our homework. We know what's going on in other parts of the country."

The Gosches feel they would know intuitively if their son were dead. They have a "gut feeling," they say, that he will be found alive.

So far, 82 psychics have called, written or shown up at the Gosches' door. Often, their suggestions border on the ridiculous. One urged the Gosches to obtain the names of every person who sat in the second row, section C of Sec Taylor Stadium during the entire baseball season last year because one of them had news of Johnny.

There have been the false leads and, even now, there are crank calls. Recently, a youngster attempting to imitate Johnny's voice begged, "Help me, mom. Help me." The call was traced to a West Des Moines phone booth. Some callers scream, "Johnny's dead" into the phone and hang up laughing.

"Why so much cruelty to our family? Why so much cruelty about a little boy who never did anything to anybody?" Noreen Gosch asked.

"This is the test of a lifetime. We

have experienced the finest and the worst of human nature. Some people have been cruel right to our face."

The Gosches say that some of their friends have "come through and been true blue." But others have faded from their lives because "it's too painful for them and too uncomfortable. . . . After a certain period of time, they begin to ignore you," Noreen Gosch said. "But the kindness we've had expressed to us far outweighs the cruelties."

They talk proudly of the 150 volunteers who work with Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc. throughout the state to help raise money for private investigators and of the 90,000 posters with Johnny's picture on them that are circulating worldwide.

#### Won't Give Up

The Gosches have become outspoken advocates of children's rights. They often speak to groups of parents to create greater awareness of the dangers children face. They spend their time away from work on efforts to find their son — they help volunteers arrange fund-raising dances and candy sales. They mail out posters and write speeches.

"A lot of people say they're bored with the Johnny Gosch story. Well, I am completely sick of the circumstance, but we don't have a choice. We have to see it through to the end," Noreen Gosch said.

"Some days, we'd rather not get out of bed — it's too painful. But Johnny doesn't have the luxury of quitting. If his parents give up, what's left?"

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 1M and 7M  
 Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 3/30/83  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB; JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

## Gosches say news treatment generally fair

By KEN FUSON  
*Register Staff Writer*

Despite isolated instances, John and Noreen Gosch believe the news media have treated them fairly since the disappearance last year of their son Johnny.

About 50 reporters and editors, students and area residents listened Tuesday night as the Gosches explained their criticisms of — and praise for — the way the press has handled the case.

"To them, their son is most important," said Betty McConkey,

coordinator of Help Find Johnny Gesch Inc., at the meeting of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi. "To you, a story is most important."

John Gosch said the family and friends of Johnny have tried hard to keep the boy's name and picture before the public. Johnny disappeared last Sept. 5 shortly after setting out to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register near the family home in West Des Moines.

"If we do not keep things going, guys, it's going to come to a standstill," he said. Overall, he added, "the media have been fair."

A central question emerged throughout the session: Should reporters be advocates or try to present the news?

"We'll be honest with you," McConkey said. "You're the media

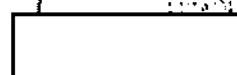
**GOSCH**  
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7A-1053 Sub 21

INDEXED

FILED

MAR 15 1983



b6  
b7c

## Two 'big leads' followed story, Mrs. Gosch says

### GOSCH

*Continued from Page One*

and we're looking for a 13-year-old boy, and we're going to use you. We need you."

Specifically, McConkey and the Gosches said they have been rebuffed in several attempts to have story ideas or news releases printed or aired.

James P. Gannon, editor of The Des Moines Register, said the Gosches and their supporters have done "an outstanding job in keeping this story alive."

Even so, Gannon said later, "you must understand it is not the media's responsibility to help you raise money. It is the media's role to report news and developments."

Much of the meeting concerned the Gosches' criticism of the investigation conducted by the West Des Moines Police Department and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

Noreen Gosch said she believed



JOHN  
GOSCH



NOREEN  
GOSCH

reporters have given less weight to the family's complaints than to the responses of authorities. "The last word was always given to the police to refute what we've said," she said.

She said members of the news media may not realize the importance of what they write or say. Specifically, she praised a story in the Des Moines Sunday Register that told of the family's plight.

Since that story, she said, "we have gotten two very big leads" in the case. The Gosches declined to elaborate on those developments.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page  
Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date:

Edition Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
VICTIM  
Character: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING  
or  
Classification: 7A-1053-45  
Submitting Office: Omaha

## Man questioned in Gosch case

A man who a tipster said had information about what happened to missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch of West Des Moines was questioned by police and released Monday, it was learned.

According to a source, the tipster phoned the man's name to the family earlier this month, saying he knew who took the boy and where the boy's remains could be found. West Des Moines police and the FBI declined comment. John Gosch Sr. said, "The whole thing might be a hoax."

Noreen Gosch told the Associated Press the family doesn't know if the information is valid, or if it is another in a series of hoax calls they have received since their son disappeared last Labor Day weekend.

Johnny Gosch was 12 when he vanished after starting to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register near his home in West Des Moines.

Mrs. Gosch said the man who first called her July 1 said he had known for several months who took her son. He also told her he was not going to protect the man any longer, she was quoted as saying.

JOHNNY  
GOSCH

7A-1053-45

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 17 1983	
FBI-OMAHA	

## No clues from Florida seen in Gosch case

By FRANK SANTIAGO

A Fort Lauderdale Police Department spokesman said Wednesday there was no reason to believe that an unidentified youth in custody there has knowledge of missing West Des Moines newspaperboy Johnny Gosch.

Diana Morrisette said the mystery 18-year-old "hasn't given any information" about Gosch and that he has been "evasive, playing games and making general statements." "I've been following the case closely, and I monitored the conversation he had [by telephone with Noreen Gosch, mother of the missing boy, and Fort Lauderdale Detective Sandra Ledegang], and the informa-

tion he gave about Gosch was contained in the questions asked of him. They were leading questions," Morrisette said.

She added, "He's a very bright youngster and nothing gets past him."

WHO-TV said Wednesday that "authorities think the boy knows something about missing West Des Moines teenager Johnny Gosch."

The television station said the mystery boy's court-appointed lawyer, Karyn Grainer, said "he had to have some contact with Gosch."

Neither Ledegang nor Grainer was available immediately for comment.

According to Morrisette, Noreen Gosch called Fort Lauderdale authorities after reports said the youth may be the missing Gosch.

The Gosches declined to comment on the incident.

Broward County Circuit Court Judge Robert Scott ordered that the youngster be given a physical examination to determine if he had a birthmark on his left side as does the missing Gosch. No mark was found.

Morrisette declined to comment on a court order asking that truth serum be given to the youth today. However, a source close to the Police Department said the serum was being administered with the hopes it would help establish the youngster's identity.

The boy told police he is Raven Darkholme, a name he apparently borrowed from a comic book character. He is being held in a Florida hospital.

Gosch disappeared Sept. 5. Police have been unable to say what happened to him, although the family has said he was abducted.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 1A and 7A  
 Des Moines Sunday Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 9/4/83  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB; JOHN DAVID GOSCH-  
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Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7A-1053  
 Submitting Office Omaha

# Year of agony for Gosches, lone witness

By SHERRY RICCIARDI

Register Staff Writer

Over the past year, Noreen and John Gosch have dealt with everything from a Bulgarian psychic to crank callers who scream, "Your son is dead" into the telephone.

Their relentless search has involved grisly, heart-breaking tasks that, at times, leave them desperate and nearly broken.

"Last November, we had to look at pictures of mutilated, dismembered children to see if we recognized any part of our son. It was ugly — I came close to fainting," said Noreen Gosch, who has begun to show the wear (of a year) of suffering.

One year ago Monday, 12-year-old Johnny Gosch vanished without a trace when he went out to deliver newspapers in a quiet West Des Moines neighborhood.

Since then, the Gosches have conducted an extraordinary public campaign to find their son. They have excoriated law enforcement authorities for not trying harder to find Johnny; they have hired private investigators to check dozens of

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

John Rossi still replays the tape recorded in his mind that morning, a year ago. But the pictures yield few answers.

He got dressed, went to the quiet street corner to pick up bundles of newspapers for his kids to deliver and saw a man sitting in a blue car talking to Johnny Gosch.

As he stuffed the bundles under his arm Sunday, Sept. 5, 1982, Rossi thought something was strange. He glanced at the car's license plate.

He didn't know until later that Labor Day weekend that he was one of the last persons known to have seen the Gosch youngster.

Moments later, at the West Des Moines street corner, the 12-year-old boy rolled his wagon loaded with the Des Moines Sunday Register newspapers up the street and vanished. So began what has become a baffling, frustrating hunt that has led investigators to almost every corner of the nation and has left the name "Gosch" on the lips of hundreds who have taken up the



Johnny Gosch  
 Missing for one year.

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**SEARCH**

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FBI-Omaha	

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# Police get leads almost daily in Gosch search

## SEARCH

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missing children cause.

Despite a flood of what seemed to be clues to Gosch's disappearance, authorities have been unable to find a solid lead, a positive shred of information from somewhere or somebody that would reveal what happened to Johnny Gosch.

John and Noreen Gosch believe their son was abducted. Authorities say he disappeared by "suspicious means," but they haven't listed the disappearance as an abduction.

Lyle McKinney, the West Des Moines police sergeant who remains assigned to the case, believes Gosch is alive.

"It's a gut feeling and only that," he says. "I'm still an optimist."

Although a year has passed, the investigation, joined by the state Division of Criminal Investigation and the FBI, remains "alive," he says, adding: "If you're asking if there is any less interest than there was a year ago, the answer is No."

McKinney says callers still offer leads almost daily. When the case gets attention on television or in newspapers, there are several calls.

Two weeks ago, there was the mysterious 8-year-old in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who claimed to be Raven Darkholme, a name he borrowed from a comic book character. He talked with Noreen Gosch by phone, and she said Darkholme told her things that indicated he knew her son. A police spokesman there, however, said Darkholme knew nothing about Gosch.

Rossi, a lawyer for Master Builders of Iowa in Des Moines, has re-examined the moment on the street corner, but little more comes to mind. "I keep hoping I'll wake up in the middle of the night and see that number on the license plate as distinctly as night and day, but that hasn't happened," he says.

I've gone over to the Transportation Department to run a license number through their computers... but no luck.

"When I was in Indianola on business, I found myself looking at every damn car," he says.



REGISTER PHOTO BY DAVID PETERSON

John and Noreen Gosch gather with a support group that meets each Friday.

Under hypnosis, Rossi told police the mystery car had plates from Warren County. He was able to supply some of the numbers.

"I know that it's easy to say that you can't expect more, that it's normal for a person under the circumstances not to remember more. But damn it! I'm a lawyer. I should have seen more," he said.

Police haven't found the car, or the driver, despite a broad search and an examination of motor vehicle registrations.

"We've got a card file this wide," McKinney said, holding his hands far apart. "We still don't know if [the car's driver] is a suspect. We just would like to talk to him. Maybe he saw something he could tell us about."

Psychics and the well-meaning have joined the search. One man called to say he had a lead. When he didn't show up, police discovered he had been admitted to Broadlawns Medical Center for psychiatric care.

In October, three Ankeny youths were arrested after a prank ransom call to the family saying they had Gosch.

In December, an unidentified youngster who turned up in a New Jersey hospital with amnesia looked like Gosch but was another 12-year-old.

In January, a truck driver called the family to say he had driven Gosch to Atlantic. Police checked his story and said he was lying, giving the in-

formation because he felt sorry for the parents.

In February, a tipster claiming to be psychic accused a traveling boot salesman from Nebraska of hiding Gosch in his recreation vehicle. Police searched it. One of the officers said they "found one helluva lot of boots" but nothing else.

In March, Gosch reportedly was seen in an Arlington, Texas, pizza parlor. In June, the body of an unidentified youngster was found near Waukegan, Ill. Both were false leads.

### Mystery Man, Car

The investigation continues to return to the mystery car and the mystery man at the corner of Forty-second Street and Ashworth Road in West Des Moines where Rossi and Gosch were a year ago.

Gosch left his home about two blocks away shortly before 8 a.m. Police — who interviewed Rossi and three youngsters, also carriers who went to pick up newspapers — say the mystery man stopped Gosch as the youth approached the corner with his wagon. The man talked to him from the car, then made a U-turn on Ashworth, drove to the corner and parked there. Again, he talked to Gosch. He asked for directions to Eighty-sixth Street, which is Twenty-second Street in West Des Moines, a busy north-south street about 20 blocks away.

Rossi, who stood three feet from the man, said that he appeared "high" and was "miffed." According to one

# Gosches have 'gut feeling' that their son is still alive

## FAMILY

Continued from Page One

of the carriers, Gosch emerged from the conversation saying the man was "weird."

The man was described as being in his mid-30s, weighing about 200 pounds, with dark hair, deep-set eyes and a dark complexion. The car was believed to be a full-size, late-model, two-door blue vehicle with Warren County license plates.

The man drove from the corner and down Ashworth "like a bat out of hell," Rossi said. Gosch went up the street about a block, crossed it and parked his wagon at Marcourt Lane and Forty-second Street.

A nearby resident who glanced out of a window in his home early that morning said he saw what appeared to be a "silver" car at the corner where the wagon was parked. He said it may have had a stripe along its side.

Later, Johnny Gosch's wagon, loaded with newspapers — not one of them delivered — was found sitting on the corner. The youngster and his yellow carrier bag were gone. The bag has not been found.

### Same Car?

Rossi says it may have been possible for the mystery man to have driven away from the newspaper drop and back to the corner where Gosch had parked his wagon. The "second car" may have been the same car.

According to the Iowa chapter of Child Find Inc., there have been 12 mysterious disappearances of youngsters in Iowa in the past year. Eight of the children were found alive, and two were found dead. Foul play is not suspected in the latter cases, authorities say.

Only Gosch and Corinne Perry, 17, of Creston haven't turned up. Perry vanished April 17 after leaving a laundry.

Kristin Cole Brown, information director for Child Find Inc. at its New Paltz, N.Y., headquarters, says Child Find estimates that 50,000 children vanish each year. Of that number, 42,000 are "resolved," either discovered to be runaways or abducted by parents.

"Of the remaining 8,000," Brown says, "there is every reason to believe they've met with foul play."

leads; they and their supporters have raised \$60,000 through a fund-raising organization, Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc., and they have listened to the predictions of nearly 200 psychics who have called or dropped in since Sept. 5, 1982.

Noreen described what she called the "most bizarre" of the lot:

"A psychic in Bulgaria heard of the case ... she sent word that we should sleep with two sugar cubes under our pillow, then send them to her overseas. I packed them in popcorn so they wouldn't break."

"This woman was blind, but she described Johnny perfectly and she described our home. She said Johnny is alive."

Silly? Even the Gosches admit it. But, the tension and uncertainty have taken their toll.

Today, reporters don't call quite as frequently at their home, but the search for their son remains the center of the Gosches' lives. Fundraising efforts continue. Psychics still call. And the Gosches still say they won't rest until Johnny is found.

Still, sitting in the living room of their home, Noreen and John Gosch appeared calmer than in recent months as they talked about their year of strife. John Gosch sat in his stocking feet and sipped a can of beer. Noreen, wearing a bright green jogging suit, curled up in the corner of the plaid couch.

5:30 p.m. — The phone rings. A reporter from a Quad-Cities television station wants to talk about a new lead.

"We've never experienced anything that hurt as much as this. It's a constant physical pain around our hearts. Some nights it hurts so much I feel I could die in my sleep," said Noreen Gosch.

This summer, the Gosches hit another run of bad luck. The chemical company John worked for suddenly closed, leaving him jobless for two months. He now works for American Cyanamide Co. in Des Moines.

3:45 p.m. — A woman, the Gosches never met calls to say she has ideas for fund-raisers to keep private detectives going. A meeting is set for Friday.

Over the past 12 months, the Gosches have been the target of public criticism for their attacks on how the West Des Moines Police Department and Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation handled the case.

Six months ago, the couple talked of losing community support, of seeing some friends and neighbors drift away.

"But now, we are seeing a new-found respect," Noreen Gosch said. "People who ridiculed us in the beginning and had contempt for us because we questioned the system now give us an E for endurance and an E for effort because we haven't given up."

6 p.m. — A Clinton newspaper reporter calls.

The Gosches remain resolute in their theory that Johnny was abducted by two men. Both say they have a "gut feeling" their son is alive. But that thought alone can plunge them into a chamber of horrors — an endless list of gruesome possibilities.

"When you're lying awake in the middle of the night, your mind goes over all sorts of things — it can drive you wild," Noreen Gosch said.

"We know some of these missing children end up as prostitutes or in pornography rings. We've heard talk of slavery — of them being shipped to Mexico and sold on an auction block like cattle."

"Once, when I thought I absolutely wouldn't make it through the night, I crawled in Johnny's bed and slept there. It made me feel closer to him on some level."

For John Gosch there is the never-ending search, a constant scanning of the Iowa countryside for the tiniest clue.

"I was driving back from Redfield

the other day and I saw a spot of yellow in a field. Immediately, I thought of Johnny's yellow carrier's bag (that disappeared with him). After I stopped, I stood there thinking, 'How long am I going to do this?'"

6:10 p.m. — A neighbor arrives carrying a macaroni and hamburger casserole.

The friend, Dallas Davis, is part of a corps of 25 to 30 volunteers who meet every Friday night at the Gosch home to plan strategy for fund-raisers and for publicity to keep the case alive.

The fund-raising group, Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc., has raised and spent \$60,000 so far. Nearly 100,000 candy bars have been sold by volunteers.

The money is used for posters of Johnny, which are distributed world-wide. Most important, the Gosches believe, it pays for the private investigators.

In mid-August, volunteers, including many in the neighborhood, organized a huge garage sale that netted \$3,000. A group of children from Carroll sent \$23 from a backyard carnival they had this summer.

The couple has given nearly 50 speeches on child abduction to church and civic groups, to schools and private organizations throughout Iowa. They've appeared on national television and at a national judges' conference.

7 p.m. — A volunteer worker calls to say she has arranged to take yet another psychic on a tour of Johnny's paper route.

The Gosches say they have remained close during the ordeal. "We are in a situation where we can't afford to have anything break us up," John Gosch said.

"So many things take long hard talking and thinking out... John will look at me and say, 'When they said for better or worse, did you ever believe it could be this bad?'" said Noreen.

The Gosches say they have read studies showing that 90 percent of the parents of missing children end up divorced or use alcohol or drugs to ease the pain.

"People who don't think we cry enough should have been here the night they brought Johnny's gym bag home, when school ended in May," said Noreen. "We literally fell apart that night. His little gym shoes weren't even dirty — he never had a chance to use them."

8 p.m. — A West Des Moines woman drops in to say she wants to help in any way she can. The Gosches invite her to sit down.

The front porch light still burns 24 hours a day. The suitcase full of Johnny's favorite clothes remains on his bed along with stacks of unopened Valentines, Christmas and birthday presents.

"Are we ready for an unhappy ending? We have to be," said Noreen Gosch. "But, we also have to have some answers. Until there is proof, Johnny is alive."

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
**Page 8M**  
**Des Moines Register**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**

Date: 9/7/83  
Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB; JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

Classification: 7A-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

## Governor commends Gosches on search for missing son

Gov. Terry Branstad began his Tuesday press conference by commending Noreen and John Gosch of West Des Moines for their relentless search for their son, who vanished a year ago.

The governor said the Gosches' "determination to solve the mystery of their son's disappearance must be appreciated by all parents...."

The governor's comments came just two days after the Gosches announced a \$67,000 increase in the reward for the safe return of Johnny Gosch, 13. The total now stands at \$100,000.

According to John Gosch, family friends and volunteers for Help Find Johnny Gosch, Inc., pledged the additional money because "they felt the reward might not be large enough to bring about the answers we seek."

The Gosches explained that \$5,000 offered by the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company and another \$3,000 offered by the Iowa Fertilizer and Chemical Association and the West Des Moines Express is earmarked just for information about the missing newspaper carrier.

On Monday, the Gosches filmed a television appeal to be aired in

Florida from where they say the latest leads about their son have come.

Branstad also commended the hundreds of volunteers who have helped in the search and said they "set a good example and prove again that a real feeling of humanity exists in Iowa."

The governor also said "we hope and pray for the safe return" of two other missing Iowans, Corrine Perry, 17, of Creston, and Leonard Tilkes, 37, a state employee from Indianola.

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>det</i>	FILED <i>det</i>
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FBI/DOJ	

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24 Omaha World-Herald

Omaha, NE

Date: 12/17/83

Edition:

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Classification:

Submitting Office:

## Arrested Iowan Is Questioned In Sarpy County Child Murders

Des Moines (AP) — A Des Moines man said police arrested him on a manufactured charge and held him for more than 24 hours while they questioned him about the murders of two Sarpy County, Neb., youths and the disappearance of a West Des Moines newspaper carrier.

Eric Anthony Eldon Manz, 22, said he had nothing to do with the murders and that the intense search for the man responsible for the killings has led authorities to be overzealous.

Des Moines police arrested Manz Monday afternoon in a Des Moines bar on a public intoxication charge. Apparently someone in the bar decided Manz resembled a composite drawing of the suspected killer and called police. Manz said he was not drunk and not creating a disturbance. He said police later told him he was being charged with murder.

"The officers are prepared to testify in court on that intoxication charge," said Donald Knox, the Des Moines chief of detectives. "He has a trial coming to determine the validity of the charge. The bartender thought he was acting strange and saying strange things."

Knox added: "We held him for West Des Moines because of the (Johnny) Gosch case, and for the FBI because of the Bellevue (Neb.) killings. We believed West Des Moines and the FBI had a substantial interest in him. It was a routine matter."

Police said later that they do not consider Manz a suspect in either the Sarpy County or West Des Moines cases.

Manz said police questions were related to the killings of Danny Joe Eberle, 13, and Christopher Paul Walden, 12, near Omaha.

Manz said police took extra fingerprints and mug shots, including one of him wearing a stocking cap. FBI agents questioned him Tuesday morning. He was released after posting \$110 bond Tuesday afternoon.

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cc in - 7-1123

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FBI - OMAHA  
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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3B

Des Moines Sunday Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 1/29/84

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH-VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

# Noreen Gosch reports new sighting of son

By SUSAN CABAT

Register Staff Writer

A woman in the southwestern U.S. claims she saw Johnny Gosch, who vanished 16 months ago, trying to escape from two men last March, the parents of the missing West Des Moines boy have been told.

Noreen Gosch, Johnny's mother, said Saturday that she has been told that a woman reported Johnny ran up to her on March 2, 1983, and pleaded for help.

"She was going into a store and he ran up and said, 'I'm John David Gosch, please help me,'" Noreen Gosch said she was told. Two men who fit descriptions of men witnesses reported at the scene of the abduction then came up, grabbed the boy, twisted his arm and ran down the street with him, Noreen Gosch said the woman reported.

Noreen Gosch would not disclose the name of the woman who reported the incident, nor say where the alleged sighting occurred. A private detective from Chicago, Robert Christianson, advised the Gosches not to release the information, she said.

"If the boy is still alive, and the abductors are still out there, I don't want to be tipping them," Christianson said Saturday. "And I could be going in the wrong direction."

Johnny Gosch disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, early in the morning as he was preparing to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register.

JOHNNY  
GOSCH

The anonymous woman reportedly followed the men and the boy until they put the youth in a car and drove off, Noreen Gosch was told. The woman reported the incident to police but was told it was probably a case of a parent disciplining a son, she said.

The woman did not contact other authorities until seeing a movie, "Adam," about missing children. The West Des Moines police were informed of the sighting, but did not pursue the information vigorously, Noreen Gosch said. West Des Moines police officials could not be reached for comment Saturday. The police chief was out of town, and the officer handling the Gosch case has an unlisted home telephone number.

Apparently, the woman forgot about the incident for several months, but was reminded of it when she saw another picture of Johnny Gosch. Through a series of contacts with an organization that tracks missing children, the woman eventually was put in touch with Christianson. She was interviewed by Christianson and another detective, and last week Christianson verified her story, Noreen Gosch said.

Christianson and Noreen Gosch said the incident confirms a pattern of sightings in the western part of the United States, but they would not describe the pattern. They plan to blanket the area with pamphlets and pictures of Johnny Gosch. Late last March, the FBI investigated a report that the boy had been seen in an Arlington, Texas, pizza parlor.

The boy's father, John Gosch, said the new information is important, even though the alleged sighting occurred 10 months ago.

"It's a positive stroke that he was alive at that point," he said.

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FBI - OMAHA	
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Page 3A  
Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, IowaDate: 2/23/84  
Edition: MorningTitle: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIMCharacter: KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Gosches get 3 calls they think came from their missing son

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

John and Noreen Gosch received three brief phone calls early Wednesday from a youngster pleading for help, and they believe the voice was that of their missing son, newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch.

John Gosch says he is "optimistic" that his son made the phone calls. Noreen said there was "no doubt" about it.

Shortly after midnight, three brief calls, lasting a total of about 40 seconds, were made to the family's West Des Moines home.

"He said, 'Please help me, Mom, please help me.' He indicated he was in New York City and was trying to get out of there," John Gosch said.

## Apparently Long Distance

John Gosch was out of town at the time and said his wife received the calls, which appeared to be long distance.

"She said the voice sounded just like Johnny's," he said.

Noreen Gosch said the calls were about six minutes apart.

"I started asking him questions that he could simply answer yes or no to,"

JOHNNY  
GOSCH

she said. "I asked him if he was all right. The first response was he wasn't all right. I asked him if he could get away; then they cut the conversation off."

"In the third call that came about six minutes later, I asked him if he was all right again. I told him we loved him and were trying to find him and he should try and get away and get to a policeman. Right after that he said OK and they hung up again."

Johnny Gosch, who was 12 at the time, disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, a few blocks from his home as he prepared to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register.

"But this sounds good," John Gosch said. "It's a spark of hope."

## Similar Call

Gosch said the family received a similar call six months ago from a young man who "sounded very, very similar. He didn't say where he was."

West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney said, "We're trying to run it down."

McKinney said he couldn't say whether the caller was the missing youngster, and he declined to say if or how police expected to determine that.

7-1053-Sub. A-69

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 23 1984	
FBI - OMAHA	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOI/PA

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Page 40 ~ Duplicate;

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# Gosches plead Pass missing children bill

CHICAGO, ILL. (AP) — The parents of missing Iowa newspaper boy Johnny Gosch pleaded Tuesday for passage of a congressional missing children bill, saying families now "have to beg police to do anything" to find their children.

Noreen and John Gosch also described a series of phone calls made to their West Des Moines home Feb. 22 in which they said their 14-year-old son — who disappeared while delivering papers in September 1982 — "sounded drugged" and "couldn't enunciate his words."

"He could say 'yes' and 'no' but as soon as we asked where he was" the phone was hung up, said Noreen Gosch, who added that she felt "the abductor derived some sort of sadistic pleasure from this." The Gosches said they received three brief calls, lasting a total of about 40 seconds.

## "Resource Center"

The Gosches appeared at a news conference in Chicago with U.S. Representative Paul Simon (Dem., Ill.), who is pushing legislation to create a toll-free hotline for tips on missing children and to set up a national "resource center" offering technical and scientific help to parents and local investigating agencies.

Also appearing was John Walsh, father of a Florida boy whose disappearance and subsequent murder spawned the network television movie "Adam."

Walsh said many of the 1.8 million children who vanish annually in the United States are mistakenly dismissed by police as runaways, a situation he called "not only a national tragedy but a national disgrace."

The Gosches said the lack of a national organization to track missing children forces parents to mount fund-raising drives and hire private investigators. They also criticized alleged indifference by police agencies.

"Our son was forced to make those calls [last week]," Noreen Gosch said. "I can't tell you how helpless I felt when the police told us they weren't going to do anything..."

The Gosches said numerous leads about Johnny's whereabouts were ignored or lost by police agencies. Parents must resort to sending their own missing-person fliers to police, according to Gosch.

## Waited by the Phone

"Parents have to beg police to do anything to find their children," said Gosch, who added that he had talked to many parent victims in the last 18 months and learned that some "waited by their phones for six years because they were told to do that" by police.

Iowa authorities have maintained that the Gosch case is not a clear-cut abduction, but say that investigators have done everything possible to locate the youth.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Page 4M  
Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 2/29/84  
Edition: Morning

UNSUB;  
Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
or  
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Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-Sub A-77

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 01 1984	
FBI-CLEVELAND	

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AP PHOTO



Noreen and John Gosch of West Des Moines display a photo of their abducted son, Johnny, at a Chicago press conference Tuesday. The Gosches urged passage of a congressional missing-children bill, saying families now "have to beg police to do anything to find their children."

Gosch said it was "deplorable" that parents who lose children have to sell candy bars and bumper stickers to fund continued searches and hire private detectives. He said he had spent \$75,000 raised from benefit drives.

There are groups to "save the whales and save the seals but not a single organization in this country to save the kids," said Gosch.

Simon, who sponsored a 1982 law expanding computerized information-gathering by the FBI in missing children cases, said his new bill would

take aim at two problems that have stymied missing children inquiries.

"They are launched too late and they are doomed by too little information," said Simon, a Democratic candidate in the March 20 U.S. Senate primary. "This [the bill] is the beginning of an early-warning system for missing children."

The legislation, which also would fund non-profit "missing children groups" and encourage national coordination of search efforts, could reach the House floor by May, he said.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1, Omaha World Herald  
Omaha, NebraskaDate: 3/6/84  
Edition: SunriseTitle: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING  
Character:  
or  
Classification: OM 7-1053  
Submitting Office: Omaha

## Youngsters Told to Beware of Lures

# Expert Says Abductors Target Children

By Lynn Zerschling

World-Herald Staff Writer

Men who abduct children usually pick out a child whom they think will be "an easy touch," a national spokesman who has investigated child abductions said Monday. He listed ways children can protect themselves.

"These abductors do something I didn't know they did until recently. They target a youngster," said Dr. Kenneth Wooden, executive director of the National Coalition for Children's Justice. He spoke to several hundred adults and children at the Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum.

Wooden was joined in his Omaha appearance by the parents of 13-year-old Johnny Gosch of West Des Moines. Young Gosch disappeared 18 months ago.

### Watch Playgrounds

Wooden, who is working on an eight-part series on child abductions for ABC-TV's "20/20" program, said he has interviewed a number of men in prisons around the country who have been convicted of kidnapping and killing children.

Those he interviewed said they looked for children who walk to school alone, take shortcuts or seem to be alienated from other children.

The men often watch playgrounds observing children's play habits, he said.

"Of the 285 men caught in New York, they averaged 87 children molested before they were caught," he said. "They know what they're doing."

Wooden, often exchanging comments with children in the audience, told the youngsters they can protect themselves. He urged them to beware of the lures adults use to entice them into cars or vans.

He demonstrated, with the assistance of Chris and Andy Litchfield, how easy it is for an abductor to grab a child. The boys are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Litchfield.

One of the most common lures is the use of fake police and sheriff's badges as identification, he said. He showed several authentic-looking badges that identified him as a law officer.

"I paid \$14 for this badge," Wooden said of a sheriff's silver star. "We bought all these badges through Detective Magazine."

When confronted by someone who claims to be a law officer, Wooden said, youngsters and teen-agers should request additional proof, such as confirming the man's identity with the agency where he says he

works.

"Call an adult or your parents and ask them to ask the man questions," he said.

Wooden, whose appearance in Omaha was sponsored by the Junior League of Omaha, warned that abductors also "dress up as priests, truant officers and store detectives."

### Other Lures

He listed other lures used by kidnappers and what the child and teen can do to foil the abduction:

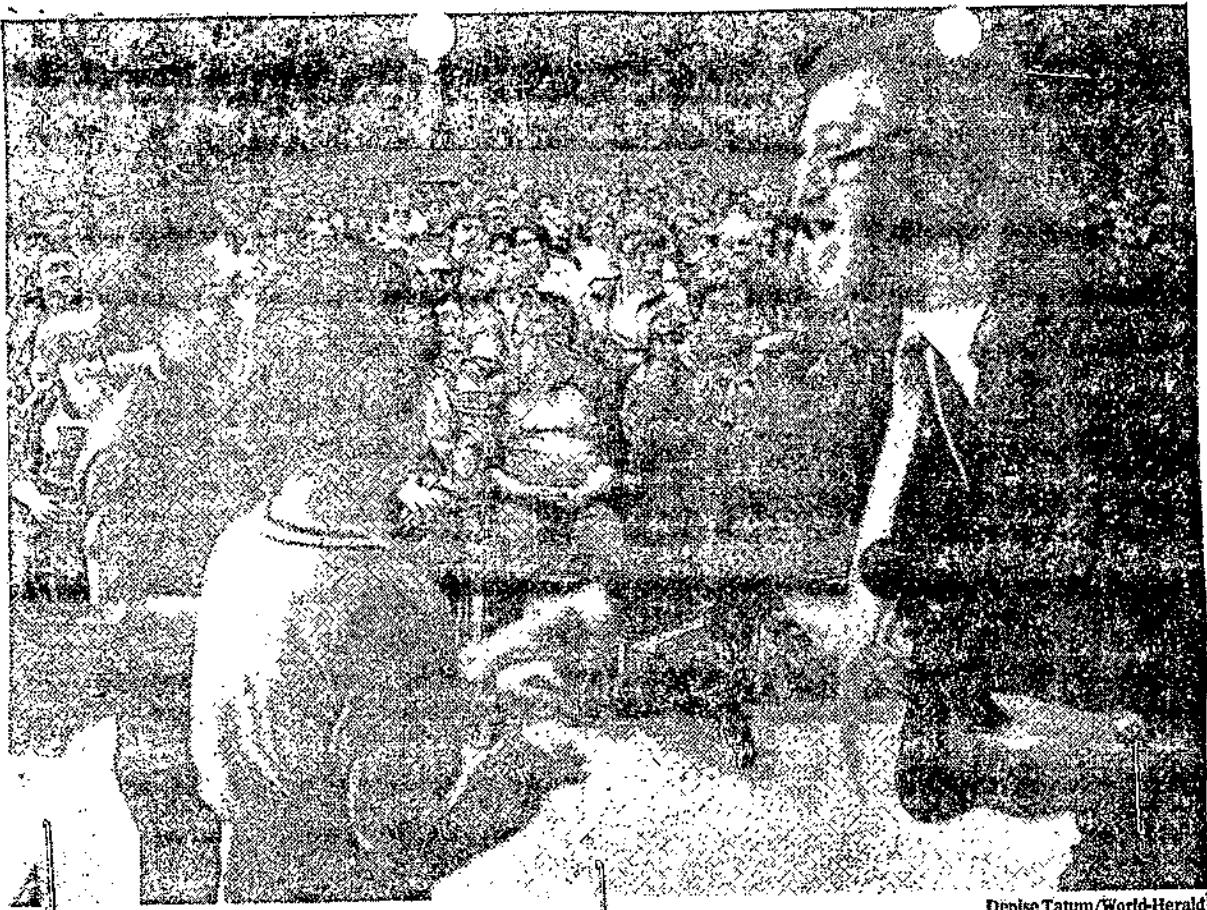
—Adults asking for help, such as searching for a "lost puppy": tell the person to get another adult to help in the search.

—Adults threatening the child with a gun: "Take off. If you get in the car, you lose control," he said. "Yell, scream, raise a commotion." He said the convicted child murderers he interviewed said that if the children they abducted had run away or screamed, they would have been scared off.

—Adults bribing the youngster with candy, beer, marijuana, new toys or rolls of quarters for video arcade games; Don't take gifts. He urged parents to be observant and notice whether their children have received items that they did not buy.

71053-Sub. A-82

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 6 1984	
FBI - OMAHA	



Denise Tatum/World-Herald

Wooden shows... Chris, left, and Andy Litchfield how easy it is for an abductor to grab a child.

## Gosches Tell About Obstacles in Search for Son

The mother of a missing West Des Moines youth, Johnny Gosch, charged Monday that an FBI official told her another youngster missing from that community was quickly recovered last year because he was "worth more" than her child.

Noreen Gosch said Herbert Hawkins, special agent in charge of the FBI in Iowa and Nebraska, made the remark April 7, 1983, the day after authorities foiled the kidnapping of the son of a wealthy Des Moines manufacturing executive.

Mrs. Gosch told several hundred people attending a luncheon Monday at the Holiday Inn at 72nd and Grover Streets that she asked Hawkins why the FBI could find Francis Arthur "Chip" Wittern III, 17, in 38 hours, but had not been able to locate her son, who has been missing since Sept. 5, 1982.

### No Comment

"He said, 'Mrs. Gosch, you have to realize there was a human life at stake and their (the Witterns') child was worth more than yours,'" Mrs. Gosch quoted Hawkins as saying during a conversation in the kitchen of her home.

Contacted Monday afternoon, Hawkins said he would not comment on the allegation.

A second officer familiar with the two cases but who asked not to be



World-Herald

### Gosches... "System Imperfect."

Identified said "the difference between the Wittern case and the Gosch case is that we had a demand for ransom for Wittern and his abductor was in constant touch with the family. We had no earthly idea of the worth of that (Wittern) family."

The kidnapped youth is the son of F.A. "Art" Wittern Jr., head of

Fawn Engineering Co. in the Des Moines suburb of Clive. The firm is one of the world's leading manufacturers and distributors of vending machines.

The Wittern boy was released April 6, 1983, after his father paid a \$200,000 ransom. Three suspects were arrested and most of the money was recovered.

Johnny Gosch, 13, disappeared while delivering Sunday newspapers.

Mrs. Gosch discussed the FBI's handling of her son's case before a luncheon gathering sponsored by the Junior League of Omaha.

### Presumed Runaways

Later Monday, Mrs. Gosch and her husband, John, described to about 250 people at the Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum the obstacles they have encountered in the search for their son.

"At this time, we don't have a perfect system for searching for children," she said.

"Any child over 10 is generally assumed to be a runaway unless parents can prove there is a danger," she said.

Gosch told the group that "parents shouldn't have to think for law enforcement agencies. ... We've had to scratch and fight every step of the way."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1, Omaha World Herald,  
Omaha, Nebraska

Date: 3/6/84

Edition: Sunrise

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

Character:

or

Classification: OM 7-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Mrs. Gosch: Iowa Errors Helped in Sarpy

By Gabriella Stern

World-Herald Staff Writer

The mother of Johnny Gosch, the 13-year-old West Des Moines boy who disappeared 18 months ago, says she was largely responsible for the swift response of law enforcement agencies to the kidnap-murders of two Sarpy County boys last fall.

"The amount of publicity my husband and I generated brought faster action to the boys in Bellevue," Noreen Gosch said in a telephone interview last week. "The city of Omaha has just suffered two terrible tragedies. In that case, the police acted immediately. The FBI got involved right away."

"The reason there was such prompt action was because there had been a great many mistakes in our case. I look

at that as progress — taking a bad situation and learning from it."

Law officials deny Mrs. Gosch's allegation that they bungled the investigation into her son's disappearance.

If anything, the family's high-profile publicity methods on a number of occasions might have hampered efforts to find him, said Herb Hawkins, special agent in charge of the FBI in Iowa and Nebraska.

Hawkins, whose office is in Omaha, said last week that he did not want to pick a fight with the Gosches, but wanted to respond to the family's allegations. "I don't want to get in a contest with them at all."

Monday, in their first public engagement in Omaha, Mrs. Gosch and her husband, John, will talk about their son, who disappeared from a West Des

Moines suburb while delivering Sunday papers on Sept. 5, 1982.

The Gosches are to appear with Ken Wooden, executive director of the National Coalition for Children's Justice, at a luncheon and two free lectures, one at 4:30 and one at 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the Junior League of Omaha. The lectures will be held at the Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum.

Mrs. Gosch said that if asked, they'll tell Omaha audiences that law enforcement agencies didn't treat the case seriously and mishandled it from the start, forcing the family to use attention-getting publicity methods and to hire private investigators.

Hawkins said he defies private investigators to find information the FBI

Please turn to Page 4, Col. 1

7-1053-Sub.A-83

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•Continued from Page 1.

hasn't already uncovered.

He also said the FBI was deeply committed to solving the Sarpy County kidnap-murders because they hoped to solve the Gosch case at the same time — not to make up for any past mistakes.

The body of Danny Joe Eberle, 13, was found in a field south of Bellevue Sept. 21, three days after he disappeared while delivering his Sunday newspaper route.

#### Forced Into Car

Christopher Paul Walden, 12, was seen being forced into a car near Pawnee School in Sarpy County the morning of Dec. 2. His body was found three days later in a plum grove northwest of Papillion.

John J. Joubert, 20, an Offutt Air Force Base airman from Portland, Maine, has been charged with two counts each of first-degree murder, kidnapping and using a knife in a felony.

Agents didn't rule out the possibility of a link between the Gosch case and the Eberle-Walden case until Joubert was arrested in January, and they established that he was not in Des Moines when Johnny disappeared, Hawkins said.

"When I heard the boy (Danny Joe Eberle) was missing, the first thing I thought of was the Gosch case," Hawkins said. "I thought at that point we could solve the Gosch case at the same time."

"The circumstances and the modus operandi were so close to the Gosch case," Hawkins said. "They were paper boys. Their looks were almost identical. We kept people working that case because we had such a similarity. We had no investigative jurisdiction, but we had an open case in the Gosch matter."

To Mrs. Gosch, evidence of the FBI's negligence in her son's case came after Danny Joe Eberle was murdered.

#### Listed as Missing

"Johnny Gosch was listed by the FBI as 'Missing' until September (1983) when his status was finally updated to 'Abducted,'" Mrs. Gosch said. "I had to fight for that for a whole year, and it only happened after Eberle's body was found."

Johnny's disappearance is as much a mystery today as it was 18 months ago. "There are no results at this point," Hawkins said. The investigation continues — FBI agents working with the Gosches' Chicago-based private investigators.

The relationship between the Gosches and the investigating agencies — West Des Moines police and the FBI — was troubled from the start. Mrs. Gosch said she found that the authorities were ignoring her son's case. The police and FBI disliked the family's independent investigation and use of publicity.

Two days after Johnny's disappearance, the Gosches went on local television and displayed their son's photograph in the hope that someone had seen him.

Hawkins said that was probably ill-advised. "Some maintain immediate publicity is the best thing. I don't agree.



Mrs. Gosch

Hawkins

It makes our job 10 times more difficult.

"Law enforcement prefers no publicity in a case like this until all the leads have been totally exhausted and to give the abductor an opportunity to make contact with the parents," Hawkins said.

Mrs. Gosch said she and her husband were right to make a public appeal.

From that day on, the Gosches have been consistently public about their son's case, and the FBI, which heads the investigation, has maintained a tight-lipped approach.

On Feb. 22, for example, Mrs. Gosch said she had three telephone calls from her son. She called the police and then told the local news media.

Hawkins said it was unwise of Mrs. Gosch to publicize the calls because the child's captors might resort to desperate measures.

The publicity could indicate that the calls were being investigated and possibly prompt the captors to go into hiding and to harm the child, Hawkins said.

"The safety of the child is foremost," Hawkins said.

Mrs. Gosch said she publicized the calls because it appeared that captors had let the child place the calls and were present during the phone conversations.

"There are times when you have to take a risk to get more information. Somebody wanted us to know Johnny was alive. We just don't know why. We hoped more information would surface."

#### Phone Calls

To Mrs. Gosch, the three phone calls, each lasting about 40 seconds and coming at six-minute intervals, represent a major breakthrough in the case.

As a result of the calls, Mrs. Gosch said she immediately concluded that the skeleton of a white male found last Tuesday in south Des Moines couldn't have been that of Johnny.

The state medical examiner determined that the skeleton was that of a man between 35 and 55 years old.

"They called me on the telephone and said they had found a skeleton. I said, 'That's not Johnny because I just spoke to him the other night. He couldn't be bones today. And we've had those other sightings,'" she said.

In the past 18 months, the Gosches have had one other telephone call they believe may have been from their son.

"We had one similar call in August,"

Gosch said. "It was taken by our older children. Each picked up the phone at the same time. It was Johnny. He was asking for help and if he could speak to Mom. They heard a scuffle in the background, and the phone went dead. It was long distance. The police said they couldn't trace it."

The Feb. 22 phone calls came "at 12:26 a.m.," Mrs. Gosch said. "I had just gotten home from a meeting and was taking off my coat. The phone rang.

#### Long Distance

"The first thing I heard was this little voice saying, 'Mom.' I listened and could tell it was long distance.

"Who is this?"

"This is Johnny, Mom."

"He was having a difficult time enunciating the words, as if he had something in his mouth or was possibly drugged. I asked him if he was all right and if he was alone. He told me 'No,' and someone hung up the phone."

The next two phone calls followed the same pattern. At one point, she said, Johnny told her he was in New York City.

"During the second call, I asked Johnny if he could get away," Mrs. Gosch said. "He said, 'I think so.' Then someone slammed the receiver down again.

"The third call, I just kept telling him we loved him and that the whole country was looking for him," Mrs. Gosch said. "I told him that if he could get away, he should run to a police officer. Then the phone went dead."

The FBI is trying to trace the calls, Hawkins said.

Mrs. Gosch said she recognized Johnny's voice. "We've had crank phone calls in the past — about 700. There is a definite difference. We've had 18 months of experience.

"The majority of the crank calls are local calls. A lot just call and hang up. They call and say your son is dead, they laugh, and hang up. One man did it on Thanksgiving."

There also have been 15 possible sightings of Johnny that, Mrs. Gosch said, seem "reliable," and hundreds of other sightings and leads that she dismissed as implausible.

The family has told the FBI of six sightings and had their private investigators handle the others, Mrs. Gosch said. The FBI investigated the six sightings, Hawkins said.

Mrs. Gosch said many of the people who say they have sighted Johnny saw him in the custody of two men. They appear to be the same two men spotted by four of Johnny's friends in West Des Moines the morning he disappeared, she said.

The Gosches' appearance in Omaha is one of hundreds of engagements the couple has had since their son disappeared. Mrs. Gosch said their purpose is to teach Americans about child abductions and persuade legislators to draft laws dealing with the problem.

"The FBI did not assist in the beginning," Mrs. Gosch said. "They were unwilling to come into the case on an active level locally. It's that way all over the country. The police and the FBI don't want to act."



Noreen Gosch, who said she received phone calls from her missing son Johnny [right]; "I told him that we loved him."

## Missing Iowa boy: ‘Mom, get me out’

By Janet Cawley  
Chicago Tribune

**DES MOINES**—For the last 18 months, since her young son disappeared, the phone has been a lifeline and a nemesis for Noreen Gosch. It rings constantly in her comfortable suburban home, bringing queries and information from the curious, the helpful, the concerned and, occasionally, the malicious.

Early Wednesday, she says, it brought the voice of her kidnaped son.

"He said, 'Mom?'

"I said, 'Who is this?' I thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long distance. He said, 'This is Johnny.' I said, 'Are you all right?' He said, 'No.' His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, 'Where are you?' and someone slammed down the phone."

In all, she says, there were three calls, each less than 40 seconds long and just minutes apart, from her 14-year-old son, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while starting out on his Sunday delivery route for the Des Moines Register newspaper.

"HE WAS PLEADING for help," she said. "He said, 'Just get me out of here, Mom.'

"They've got me here, just get me out..."

"That's how I knew it was Johnny. His voice went through

ranges of emotion, and when you hear someone through their lives, hear their voices change at different levels, then you recognize it again. His voice has deepened a little since he was kidnaped, but I know it was Johnny. I have no doubt."

Gosch said she phoned police after the first of the three calls. They later told her they could not trace the calls, she said, but could confirm they were long distance.

Said Lt. Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines Police Department, "We're still working on it. You have to be determined."

FOR MRS. GOSCH, a 40-year-old secretary, and her husband, John, also 40, a salesman for a chemical company, the calls were the latest in an anguishing series of events they cling to as proof their son is alive.

According to Mrs. Gosch, there have been 15 sightings of Johnny in the Southwest United States—she declines to be more specific—between March and September last year. She says private investigators hired by the family have verified the sightings. In most cases, Johnny appeared to be in the custody of two men "who had him under their thumbs."

According to FBI Special Agent Robert Keane in Des Moines, there have been a number of "sightings" in the Southwest. "We have done investigations, but we never have been able to say

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1 and 2, Section 1

Chicago Tribune

Chicago, Illinois

Date: 2/24/84

Edition: Daily

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-Sub A-85

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 7 1984	
FBI-OMAHA	

*[Signature]*

FBI/DOJ

# Missing

Continued from page 1

positively it was him. We would show people his picture, and they would say, "Yes, that's the person they saw," but by then he wasn't there anymore."

In addition, Mrs. Gosch says, Johnny called home once before, last Aug. 5. His 19-year-old brother and 20-year-old sister, both home from college, picked up phone extensions simultaneously, and "they heard him keep asking for Mom. He said he needed help. Then someone slammed down the phone. The whole call didn't last longer than 45 seconds."

JUST A MONTH later, Mrs. Gosch said she and a private detective received identical calls a few minutes apart. "It was a man. He said, 'I have Johnny. He's alive. You can look for him all you want, but I'm never going to give him back.'"

The Gosches believe the person who abducted Johnny was a middle-age man with dark eyes, black hair and a mustache. The man was seen talking to the boy as he began his delivery route. A friend of Johnny's said the youngster appeared to be giving directions to the man, who was driving a blue car.

"Why would he let Johnny call?" Mrs. Gosch asked. "I have a distinct feeling the calls were made for a

reason. Maybe to let us know he's alive, maybe to throw us off the track. I'm also told a lot of times kidnapers do this for a kind of sadistic pleasure."

"Earlier that evening, Johnny's picture was shown on national television on a program about the Senate hearings on missing children. Maybe the kidnaper or Johnny saw his picture and that's what led to the call," she said.

The Gosches are determined their son will, somehow, be returned to them. "I feel confident we'll find him, recover him," Mrs. Gosch said. Outside the brick family home in the affluent suburb of West Des Moines, a porch light burns constantly for Johnny. ("We've been through five bulbs"), and a phone is never more than inches away. The Gosches employ an answering service to take calls when they're not home, and Mrs. Gosch always carries a pager with her.

Life without Johnny, she says, has been "horrible." For the last two years, the family has not been able to celebrate Christmas. "The older kids just said they didn't want to. And in a way, it was just easier for us than to try to go through the whole rigamarole and torture."

"You know in this whole situation, my husband and I had jobs, friends, a purpose to keep us busy. But Johnny was ripped away from those things. It's 10 times worse for him. He's the victim."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Kidnaped newsboy has tried to flee

By Janet Cawley

Chicago Tribune

**DES MOINES**—Johnny Gosch, the Des Moines newsboy kidnapped from his delivery route 18 months ago, has made several desperate attempts to identify himself to strangers and to flee his captors, according to his family and private investigators.

Officials at the Investigative Research Agency, the Chicago firm hired by the family, are reluctant to divulge specific locations and details of the incidents for fear of endangering the boy, now 14. But an agency spokesman who has been involved in the case said the pattern traced by detectives showed that Johnny was taken along a "south-southwest" route from Des Moines.

According to the spokesman, who asked not to be named, investigators believe that on "four or five occasions" Johnny actually identified himself to members of the public.

One instance, he said, occurred in a Southwestern state last March when a boy believed to be Johnny ran up to a woman near a small shopping center just off a highway and said, "Please, help me; I'm John David Gosch."

**AN INVESTIGATOR** quoted the woman as having said that a man chased the boy and pinned the youth's arm behind him. The boy broke away again, according to the woman, and the man grabbed him again, and they crossed a nearby field.

She said she thought they were entering the rear of an apartment complex, but, the investigator said, they apparently circled back to their vehicle and drove away.

Though the woman alerted police, they found nothing and thought it was just a father disciplining his son, the investigator said. It wasn't until the woman saw Johnny's picture on a television show about missing children last October that she made the connection, he said.

He said that in another instance, at a gas station-truck stop in the West late last summer, a youth managed to edge up to some customers "and say something on the order of 'I'm Johnny Gosch' before a man came up and took him away."

ON ANOTHER occasion, about a month after he was kidnapped on Sept. 5, 1982, a telephone operator received a call through a long-distance exchange from a boy who identified himself as Johnny, his mother said.

"It was a young boy. He was pleading for help. He said he was Johnny Gosch and was trying to reach his mother in Des Moines," Noreen Gosch said. "Then the phone went dead. The call was never completed, so there is no record of it and it couldn't be traced."

On two other occasions, Johnny's family says, he actually did get through: once last August, when his older brother and sister answered the phone and heard him plead for help and for his mother before someone quickly slammed down the receiver, and once last Wednesday, when Mrs. Gosch says she received three calls, each less than 40 seconds long, from her son.

"He said, 'This is Johnny.' I said, 'Are you all right?' He said, 'No.' His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, 'Where are you?' And someone slammed down the phone."

ON MOST OF the occasions when Johnny has presumably been sighted, the investigator said, he seemed to be in the custody of two men and "pretty much under wraps." I'm sure if the boy has the opportunity to get away, he'd go to the police."

One of the kidnappers, investigators believe, is a middle-age man with dark eyes, black hair and a mustache who witnesses have said spoke to Johnny just minutes before he disappeared as he began his route for the Des Moines Register. A friend of Johnny's said the youngster appeared to have been giving directions to the man, who was driving a blue car.

One of the investigators said that the kidnappers appeared to be "on the move" but that detectives have been unable to determine what kind of vehicle they have been using. The investigator noted that if it is a camper, they could be staying in parks and campgrounds where they would be less likely to be seen.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Page 3, Section 1  
Chicago Tribune  
Chicago, Illinois

Date: 2/26/84

Edition: Sunday

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-Sub.A86

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 7 1984	
FBI/DOJ	



Johnny Gosch

He said no other children had been seen with the boy. The presence of other children might indicate that the boy is a prisoner in a kind of ring, according to the investigator.

ACCORDING TO Mrs. Gosch, there were 15 sightings in the Southwest between March and September of last year, usually near major highways and often in places such as fast-food restaurants.

Mrs. Gosch also spoke of another incident—the arrest last summer of a 19-year-old man in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.—as evidence that someone knows something about what happened to Johnny.

Ft. Lauderdale police and Mrs. Gosch say the young man, who gave his name as Raven Darkholme, taken from a comic strip character [he later was identified as David Peters], seemed to know a great deal about Johnny and the Gosch family, including details of Johnny's paper route and a vacation the family took in Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. The most startling information he provided was that Mrs. Gosch has a birthmark on her hip.

According to detective Sandy Ledegang of the juvenile division of the Ft. Lauderdale police, Darkholme was "basically a storyteller. He reads everything he gets his hands on and could have picked up the [Gosch] information on TV, from the newspapers. He changed his stories on a daily basis. He's smart. He has a photographic memory and uses it to the fullest extent."

SHE SAID Darkholme, who was arrested and charged with grand theft by giving a false name and age to receive state funds, is no longer in custody and is believed to be in the Miami area.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 4A  
 The Miami Herald  
 Miami, Florida  
 Date: 2/26/84  
 Edition: Sunday

# Galls from kidnaped son give parents new hope

By JANET CAWLEY

Chicago Tribune Service

DES MOINES, Iowa — For the last 18 months, since her young son disappeared, the phone has been a lifeline and a nemesis for Noreen Gosch. It rings constantly in her comfortable suburban home, bringing queries and information from the curious, the helpful, the concerned and, occasionally, the malicious.

Early Wednesday, she says, it brought the voice of her kidnaped son.

"He said, 'Mom?'

"I said, 'Who is this?' I thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long distance. He said, 'This is Johnny.' I said, 'Are you all right?' He said, 'No.' His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, 'Where are you?' and someone slammed down the phone."

In all, she says, there were three calls — each less than 40 seconds long and just minutes apart — from her 14-year-old son, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while starting out on his Sunday delivery route for The Des Moines Register newspaper.

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"They've got me here, just get me out...."

"That's how I knew it was Johnny. His voice went through ranges of emotion, and when you hear someone through their lives, hear their voices change at different levels, then you recognize it again. His voice has deepened a little since he was kidnaped, but I know it was Johnny. I have no doubt."

Gosch said she phoned police after the first of the three calls. They later told her they could not trace the calls, she said, but could confirm they were long distance.

Said Lt. Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines Police Department, "We're still working on it. You have to be determined."

For Mrs. Gosch, a 40-year-old secretary, and her husband, John, also 40, a salesman for a chemical company, the calls were the latest in an anguishing series of events they cling to as proof their son is alive.

## Earlier call

Johnny called home once before, on Aug. 5, she says. His 19-year-old brother and 20-year-old sister, both home from college, picked up phone extensions simultaneously, and "they heard him keep asking for Mom. He said he needed help. Then someone slammed down the phone. The whole call didn't last longer than 45 seconds."

Just a month later, Mrs. Gosch said, she and a private detective received identical calls a few minutes apart. "It was a man. He said: 'I have Johnny. He's alive. You can look for him all you want, but I'm never going to give him back.'"

The Gosches believe the person who abducted Johnny was a middle-aged man with dark eyes, black hair and a mustache. The man was seen talking to the boy as he began his delivery route. A friend of Johnny said the youngster appeared to be giving directions to the man, who was driving a blue car.

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

"Why would he let Johnny call?" Mrs. Gosch asked. "I have a distinct feeling the calls were made for a reason. Maybe to let us know he's alive, maybe to throw us off the track. I'm also told a lot of times kidnapers do this for a kind of sadistic pleasure."

"Earlier that evening, Johnny's picture was shown on national television on a program about the Senate hearings on missing children. Maybe the kidnaper or Johnny saw his picture and that's what led to the call."

Mrs. Gosch said there had been 15 sightings of Johnny in the Southwest between March and September last year. She said private investigators hired by the family had verified the sightings. In most cases, Johnny appeared to be in the custody of two men "who had him under their thumbs."

FBI Special Agent Robert Keane, in Des Moines, confirmed that there had been a number of "sightings" in the Southwest.

"We have done investigations, but we never have been able to say positively it was him. We would show people his picture, and they would say, yes, that's the person they saw, but by then he wasn't there anymore."

7-1053-Sub A-

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 7 1984	
FBI-OMAHA	

87

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

## 'South-southwest' route

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She said she thought they were entering the rear of an apartment complex, but, the investigator said, they apparently circled back to their vehicle and drove away.

Though the woman alerted police, they found nothing and thought it was just a father disciplining his son, the investigator said. It wasn't until the woman saw Johnny's picture on a television show about missing children last October that she made the connection, he said.

He said that in another instance, at a gas station-truck stop in the West late last summer, a youth managed to edge up to some customers "and say something on the order of 'I'm Johnny Gosch' before a man came up and took him away."



"Why would he let Johnny [pictured at left] call? ... I'm told a lot of times kidnapers do this for a kind of sadistic pleasure."

Noreen Gosch

## Pleading for help'

On another occasion, about a month after he was kidnaped on Sept. 5, 1982, a telephone operator received a call through a long-distance exchange from a boy who identified himself as Johnny, his mother said.

"It was a young boy. He was pleading for help. He said he was Johnny Gosch and was trying to reach his mother in Des Moines," Noreen Gosch said. "Then the phone went dead. The call was never completed, so there is no record of it and it couldn't be traced."

One of the investigators said that the kidnapers appeared to be "on the move" but that detectives had been unable to determine what kind of vehicle they had been using. The investigator noted that if it was a camper, they could be staying in parks and campgrounds where they would be less likely to be seen.

He said no other children had been seen with the boy. The presence of other children might indicate that the boy is a prisoner in a kind of ring, according to the investigator.

The Gosches are determined their son will, somehow, be returned to them.

"I feel confident we'll find him, recover him," Mrs. Gosch said. Outside the brick family home in the

affluent suburb of West Des Moines, a porch light burns constantly for Johnny ("We've been through five bulbs"), and a phone is never more than inches away. The Gosches employ an answering service to take calls when they're not home, and Mrs. Gosch always carries a pager with her.

Life without Johnny, she said, has been "horrible." For the last two years, the family has not been able to celebrate Christmas.

"The older kids just said they didn't want to," Mrs. Gosch said. "And in a way, it was just easier for us than to try to go through the whole rigamarole and torture."

"You know in this whole situation, my husband and I had jobs, friends, a purpose to keep us busy. But Johnny was ripped away from those things. It's 10 times worse for him. He's the victim."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Noreen Gosch on 'Today':

### Johnny now 6 feet tall with dyed hair

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Noreen Gosch said Thursday that some people who claim to have seen her missing son say "his hair has been chopped and dyed" and that the youngster "was close to 6 feet tall by now."

Appearing on NBC-TV's "Today Show," Gosch told interviewer Jane Pauley that "there have been a number of sightings throughout the country" and that many have come from the Southwest. "They have identified Johnny and spoken to him, and we've had this verified through private detectives and the FBI," she said.

Gosch was 12 years old and 5 feet 1 1/2 inches tall when he disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, two blocks from his West Des Moines home as he prepared to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register.

"We're not exactly sure what part of the country he is in at this time," she said. "We have sightings that are in the southwest part of the United States, but we live in a very mobile society today. People can travel from one end of the country to another in a very short time."

Noreen Gosch and her husband, John, who was also interviewed, were in WHO-TV's studios in Des Moines, and Pauley was in NBC's studios in New York.

Noreen Gosch told of the three phone calls she received at her home last week from a youngster she said was her son.

"Yes, it was Johnny. We received the first of three calls. They were six minutes apart and each phone call lasted about 40 seconds.

NOREEN  
GOSCH

"He was pleading for help. I asked him where he was at, and the phone was disconnected. On the second call I reassured him we were looking for him and that we would find him and they disconnected the phone again. They intentionally made the phone calls short."

Pauley asked, "You think they were just tormenting you and him?"

Noreen Gosch answered, "We feel Johnny was forced to make the calls, yes."

"Who are they?" Pauley asked.

Responded Noreen Gosch: "We have descriptions of two men that were seen the morning (Johnny) disappeared and we feel this is the circumstances that he's in at the same time right now."

Pauley asked if the Gosches' "lead regular lives now or does this nightmare consume you?"

John Gosch said, "We have to lead fairly normal lives. Our jobs must go on, but our main concern is to find our son and it's a full-time job, every night and every spare minute we have. We do everything that we possibly can do to get a clue."

Robert Keane, FBI spokesman in Des Moines, said several calls were received following the program and that agents are "doing everything that can be done to check them out."

Asked about the sightings, Noreen Gosch cited, Keane said, "There have been sightings . . . but we don't have the boy."

Johnny Gosch, according to witnesses and West Des Moines police reports, was seen talking to a man in a car parked near where the boy picked up his papers. Witnesses said the man drove away and Gosch, pulling his wagon loaded with newspapers, walked away to begin delivery. The wagon was later found two blocks away, but Gosch was gone.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 6M  
 Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
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Despite what police said was an extensive effort, the driver of the car has never been located, and it hasn't been determined why he was in the area or if he had driven back to the scene. Police have also been unable to identify another man who was briefly seen walking in the area by one young newspaper carrier about the time of Gosch's disappearance.

7-1053-Sub.A-89

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MAR 7 1984	
FBI-OMAHA	

**Bob  
Greene**



## Kidnaped: Johnny needs your help

**I**DON'T THINK there is a more compelling story in the country than the case of Johnny Gosch, the young West Des Moines, Ia., boy who was kidnaped from his newspaper route on Sept. 5, 1982—and who may still be held captive by the man or men who took him.

Johnny Gosch was 12 on that day. He left the house with his red wagon and his dog Gretchen to deliver Sunday-morning Des Moines Registers. The dog returned home without him. His wagon, full of newspapers, was found on a street corner. Johnny was simply gone.

His mother and father, John and Noreen Gosch, started an exhaustive campaign to try to find the boy. A composite drawing of a man suspected of being the kidnaper was distributed nationally. Enough funds were raised to establish a \$100,000 reward for Johnny's safe return. As awful as all kidnap cases are, this one was especially wrenching.

AND THEN, LAST month, a development occurred that made the story of Johnny Gosch almost unbearable to contemplate.

According to his mother, Johnny called home three times.

As Mrs. Gosch told Tribune reporter Janet Cawley in West Des Moines, the first call came just after midnight on a Wednesday.

"I said, 'Who is this?'" Mrs. Gosch recalled. "I

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It is every parent's nightmare—the idea of his or her child in desperate trouble, begging for rescue . . .

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thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long distance.

"He said, 'This is Johnny.' I said, 'Are you all right?' He said, 'No.' His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, 'Where are you?' and someone slammed down the phone."

In another call a few minutes later, Mrs. Gosch said, her son begged her to rescue him.

"He was pleading for help," she said. "He said, 'Just get me out of here, Mom. They've got me here, just get me out.' . . .

"That's how I knew it was Johnny. His voice went through ranges of emotion, and when you hear someone through their lives, hear their voices change at different levels, then you recognize it again. His voice has deepened a little since he was kidnaped, but I know it was Johnny. I have no doubt."

As in the first call, the next two ended with the phone being hung up. Each call lasted less than 40 seconds; Mrs. Gosch said she assumed it was the kidnappers who had ended the calls.

MRS. GOSCH SAID that there have been at least 15 sightings of him in the Southwest United States since he was kidnaped. According to her, on several occasions he has tried to identify himself to members of the public.

Last March, she said, a boy believed to be Johnny ran up to a woman near a small shopping center just off a highway and said, "Please help me; I'm John David Gosch."

The woman reportedly said that a man chased the boy, pinned his arm behind him, and led him away. The boy broke away again; the man captured him again. The woman thought it was a father disciplining his son. Months later, when the woman saw Johnny's picture on a television show about missing children, she realized who he had been.

In another instance, according to Mrs. Gosch and private investigators, a boy edged up to some customers at a gas-station truck stop and said something to the effect of "I'm Johnny Gosch" before a man retrieved him and took him away.

The thought that the boy is still out there, being held captive by the man or men who apparently took him from his newspaper route, is so chilling that reporters and law enforcement officials who usually try to stay emotionally detached from their stories and cases find themselves dwelling on the details of this one, and trying to figure out what more they can do to help.

IT IS EVERY PARENT'S nightmare—the idea of his or her child in desperate trouble, begging for rescue, apparently being moved at will around the country to avoid detection. It makes one start thinking of wild, dramatic attempts at solution: If President Reagan could hold up Johnny's picture at one of his live press conferences, so everyone in the country could be made aware of his situation; if every newspaper in the country could run his picture on Page One....

The thoughts go on and on. Investigators say that Johnny apparently is in the custody of two men and "pretty much under wraps." Johnny has had two birthdays since he was kidnaped; he is now 14. One of the kidnapers, according to investigators, may be a middle-aged man with dark eyes, black hair and a mustache—the same man witnesses have said they saw talking to Johnny in West Des Moines minutes before he was taken.

In the meantime, all that the rest of us can do is continue to keep our eyes open. Those of us in the newspaper business can print Johnny's picture one more time, and hope it sticks in people's memories. And we can remember the words his mother says she heard coming over the phone:

"Just get me out of here, Mom. They've got me here, just get me out...."

po

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## Smile

The trouble with having a tidy desk is that if you can't find something, it must have been stolen.

—Zingers



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosches assail FBI and Bell on 'Donahue' show

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

John and Noreen Gosch criticized authorities once again Wednesday for their handling of the search for Johnny Gosch, who has been missing for more than 18 months.

"You ask [law enforcement agencies] to do something and you have to almost beg them for help, and that's a crime in itself as far as I'm concerned," John Gosch said.

Appearing on "The Phil Donahue Show," the Gosches, who hired private detectives to find their son, Johnny, shortly after he disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, leveled their criticism at the FBI and the telephone company.

Discussing three brief, late-night phone calls she said she received Feb. 22 from her son, Noreen Gosch said the phone company "verified they were long distance but told us that if they helped us they would have to help every other set of parents in the country. We had to go through our congressman to get any action at all."

## Chip Wittern

She said the FBI "zoomed in" during the 38-hour kidnapping of Chip Wittern of West Des Moines about a year ago but reacted slowly in looking for her son, who now would be 14. Wittern's abductors demanded \$200,000 ransom. The ransom was paid, Wittern was released unhurt, and the captors were arrested. The money was recovered.

No ransom has been demanded for Johnny Gosch.

"The FBI district agent for our area said to me and my husband, 'well, Mrs. Gosch, that [Wittern] boy is worth more money than your son. We had to respond.'

Added Noreen Gosch, "How would you feel if somebody said that to you and your baby is out there?"

In a statement issued from FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., a spokesman said: "Nothing that Mr. [Herbert H.] Hawkins, agent in charge, told Mr. and Mrs. Gosch could even remotely be interpreted as Mrs. Gosch related on the Donahue program.

"Please be assured that we are not insensitive to the anguish of the Gosch family, and we have the greatest sym-

GOSCH

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 1M and 5M  
 Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
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# 15 'solid' sightings of Johnny Gosch told

## GOSCH

Continued from Page 1M

pathy for them and for others in similar circumstances.

"However, our handling of both cases, the Gosch and Wittern cases, was in full accord with the attorney general's guidelines and totally without regard to the wealth of the victim families."

### Baffled

When Noreen Gosch complained last year that the FBI worked quickly on the Wittern case and slowly on her family's case, the FBI pointed out that a ransom was demanded within hours of Wittern's disappearance. That demand, made in telephone calls to the Wittern family, told officials immediately that Wittern was kidnapped. But Johnny Gosch's disappearance has baffled authorities.

Jarby Blackmun, spokesman for Northwestern Bell in Des Moines, also defended the company's handling of telephone calls to the Gosch residence. "Right from the beginning, Northwestern Bell has cooperated fully with the authorities, and we continue to do so and will continue with that policy in the future," he said.



NOREEN  
GOSCH



JOHN  
GOSCH

Noreen Gosch said the phone calls she believes were from her son raised her spirits.

"But to come this close and have big business and the FBI say, 'Sorry we can't help you,' that's a tragedy. We have rights in this country and so does our son. I don't believe in the system anymore."

She said "there was a good deal of dialogue with Johnny" during the phone calls, and "he sounded as though he had something in his mouth or as if he had been beaten and his mouth was swollen... he was very thick tongued. It was difficult for him to enunciate."

She said there have been 15 "solid" sightings of her son since his disappearance two blocks from home shortly after he left to deliver The Des

Moines Sunday Register.

"There are foundations in this country for almost everything, saving baby seals, whales, battleships, which are all fine. But there's nothing for the kids. And if somebody would have told me two years ago that I'd be selling buttons, that my son's life depended on it, I wouldn't believe it."

The Gosches appeared with two other couples, including the Illinois parents of a 2-year-old who stepped out of their home last month and apparently was abducted, and an Indiana couple whose 11-year-old daughter was abducted and slain in 1981 when she had gone jogging.

Todd Bequette, son of Gerald and Bev Bequette of Carter Lake, also appeared and told how he was abducted April 18, 1974, in Omaha. A private investigator found him 18 months later in Washington state.

"They said I went through therapy and all of this," Bequette said of the time after his recovery. "I don't remember any of it because I was in so much shock."

Bequette, 23, father of two and living in the Southwest, said the abductor never was charged and has escaped from an Oklahoma prison.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Omaha World Herald  
Omaha, Nebraska

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# FBI Denies Allegations By Johnny Gosch Parents

By David Thompson

World-Herald Staff Writer

An allegation by the mother of a kidnapped West Des Moines boy that an FBI agent told her another abduction victim was found quickly because he "is worth more money than your son" is not true, the FBI said Wednesday.

Noreen Gosch, whose son was last seen Sept. 8, 1982, in West Des Moines and still is missing, made the allegation in a taped segment of the Phil Donahue Show that was broadcast Wednesday on KETV-Channel 7 in Omaha.

She said that the "district agent" for Iowa, whom she did not name, told her after another Des Moines-area youth was kidnapped and then found by authorities: "Well, Mrs. Gosch, that boy is worth more money than your son. We had to respond."

She said the agent made the statement after Arthur "Chip" Wittern III, 17, the son of a wealthy Iowa family, was freed within 36 hours after he was kidnapped last April and his abductors captured.

William M. Baker, an assistant director of the FBI in Washington, D.C., said it was Mrs. Gosch and not an FBI agent who suggested that young Wittern was found because his family was wealthy.

Baker said in a letter to Donahue that Mrs. Gosch's statement "provided a

grossly distorted picture of the treatment the Gosches received from Special Agent in Charge of our Omaha Division, Herbert H. Hawkins Jr."

"Our inquiry into this matter has established that Mr. Hawkins made no such statement," Baker said in the letter.

A copy of Baker's letter was provided to The World-Herald.

Hawkins explained to the Gosches that the Gosch and Wittern cases differed and that the Wittern youth was taken at gunpoint and a series of ransom calls were made, one within an hour after the abduction, Baker said.

The Gosch youth disappeared from his newspaper route and the FBI was not notified of the disappearance until a day later, Baker said. Initially, there was no evidence of a kidnapping within the FBI's jurisdiction, Baker said.

John Gosch, the father of the victim, said on the Donahue show that his wife threw a coffee cup at Hawkins after Hawkins allegedly made the "worth-more-money" statement.

Hawkins said Wednesday that the statement that Mrs. Gosch threw the coffee cup "is totally untrue . . . a coffee cup was never thrown in my direction."

Hawkins declined further comment on the meeting.

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# Mrs. Gosch: I'm a survivor

By Dave Rasdal

**WEST DES MOINES** — Adversity is not a new word to Noreen Gosch.

When she was 15 years old her father died of cancer after a two-year battle. After getting over the death, she married, only to have her first husband die of cancer when she was 21.

His death came just a month after a tornado blew apart their mobile home near Davenport with Noreen and their two children, Christine and Joseph, inside.

Her youngest son, Johnny, disappeared Sept. 5, 1982. Now, she has undertaken a nationwide search to find him.

"I'm a fighter," Noreen said. "No, survivor," she added. "Let's use that word, a survivor."

"I came back from nothing," she said, her voice steady and firm. "There were times I didn't think I was going to come back, but I made it. And I met John and he was so good to me and the kids."

In 1967 John and Noreen married. John David Gosch was born Nov. 12, 1969. The family moved from Albert Lea, Minn., to West Des Moines in 1975. Life prospered.

Two winters ago the family spent time snowmobiling around the countryside. With spring's arrival they were looking forward to another summer of boating on nearby Saylorville Reservoir.

Johnny was about to graduate to seventh grade at Indian Hills Junior High. He had visited the school and planned to enroll in a computer club and

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**Page 4A**  
**The Gazette**  
**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**  
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**JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM**

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**Indexing:**

participate in school plays. He had dreams of becoming an architect and that consumed him that spring.

Johnny remembered a tree house his older siblings had in Albert Lea and he wanted a clubhouse. His father told him to design one. Painstakingly, Johnny spent hours with finely sharpened pencils, finally producing the scale drawing of a huge A-frame house. His father laughed, then reduced the size to a 4-by-8-foot floor plan.

Weekends early that summer found father and 12-year-old son hammering away in the back yard. Always close, they became inseparable. In June the two of them and Joseph took off for a weeklong fishing expedition to the Ozarks.

**THAT LABOR DAY**, before the leaves began changing color, the Gosches planned to launch their boat at Saylorville. Johnny would deliver his Sunday papers and it would be a pleasant afternoon rocking on the cool waves beneath the hot sun. But Johnny never returned from his route.

The day was spent searching the neighborhood, the countryside, anywhere Johnny might have gone or been taken.

Noreen, convinced her son is still alive, said she will not stop searching until he is found.

"John just says, 'When will this ever end, when will we get Johnny home?' I get tired, too. You just keep plugging away."

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**A SPECIAL REPORT**

# Gosches spread their message around the state

By ~~Dave~~ Frasdal

TRAER — When Nancy Reagan recently urged schoolchildren to send their pennies to her to help save panda bears in China, Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines felt nauseous.

"Do you know what she said to me when I talked to her about my son?" Mrs. Gosch told about 350 people in Traer recently. "She said, 'I really feel bad about your son, but there's nothing I can do.'

"Now black and white goes with everything," Mrs. Gosch added, sarcastically. "Pandas are cute, but not in place of our children."

Mrs. Gosch's crusade to find her son Johnny has turned into a campaign to save other children. Five nights a week, sometimes six, she and husband, John, travel to a different community in Iowa. In more than 200 towns for an hour and a half each, they have talked about the disappearance of their son and their efforts to get legislation passed for quicker action on investigations of missing children. They have shown a film that encourages youngsters to avoid strangers and have demonstrated some of the most common lures used to snatch children.

"Enlighten them without frightening them," Mrs. Gosch said. "You'd much rather scare them a little than to walk by their empty bedroom every day."

There are about 50,000 children abducted each year, she said. Only about 10 percent of them are found alive. Another 10 percent are found dead and the other 80 percent are never heard from again.

Mrs. Gosch constantly points out that the child is the victim. But she doesn't hesitate to say the experience can literally destroy parents and families. About 90 percent of the marriages of parents of abducted children end in divorce. And 76 percent of one or the other of the parents commit suicide, she says.

The meetings all around the state and a grass-roots effort with millions of telephone calls to legislators have made people in the state more aware of what is going on.

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Gazette photo by Dave Rasdal

Noreen Gosch and her husband make and receive 30 to 50 phone calls a day in their search for their son and their campaign to help keep other children from disappearing.

and what can happen to their children.

When Mrs. Gosch first wanted to work for legislative backing, she was told it would take wining and dining of legislators to get the job done.

"To feed and water them and make sure they get enough liquor to drink?" she asked. "That goes against my grain."

So instead she and John went with a grass-roots campaign, making telephone calls and writing letters. They made an appeal to Gov. Terry Branstad, who only got interested months later, after a child was nearly abducted from a school his children attend, she said.

"They will listen to what we want. They have to if they want to get elected," she said.

The bill, which requires law enforcement officials to begin searches for missing children immediately and to get information out to other agencies as soon as possible, had passed the Senate earlier this day. It was on to Gov. Branstad, she said, where he is expected to sign it this week. The audience applauded the announcement.

The film, titled "Better Safe Than Sorry — II," tells children to beware of strangers and anyone they know who wants to take their clothes off for no good reason. It instructs the children to say "no," to "get away," and to "tell someone" about any peculiar incident with an adult.

The lures used by abductors include showing affection that parents neglect by putting their arm around the victim and giving them quarters at video game parlors or by buying older children six-packs of beer. Other lures include the abductor posing as a law officer with official-looking badge and uniform, a request for directions where the child gets too close and the abductor stuffs a gasoline-soaked cottonball into his mouth and carries him away, or a person driving up in a car and saying they were sent to pick up the child because the mother is sick.

Mrs. Gosch said the abduction and use of children is so sophisticated that men take photographs of potential victims at play and then compile them in a catalog, right along with prices. People who want to purchase a certain child put in their orders, the child is abducted and then taken to the owner, who uses the child for anything from pornography to slavery, sometimes in foreign countries.

"They are not the dirty little old men on the corner with a bag of candy any more," Mrs. Gosch said. She emphasizes that her crusade will continue as long as necessary.

Anyone wishing to contact the Gosches for an appearance or to send them a donation can write to Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc., Box 65332, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265, or call (515) 244-9431.

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**JOHNNY GOSCH**

Gazette photo by Dave Rasdal

John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines celebrate the passage of new legislation with a "Johnny Gosch Bill Passes" cake. The Gosches' son, Johnny, background, has been missing for 19 months after he disappeared while starting his newspaper route. The legislation, scheduled to be signed this week by Gov. Terry Branstad, requires law enforcement agencies to act immediately on missing children reports.

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**The Gazette**  
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TAZ

# Might-have-beens haunt lonely house

By Dave Rasdal

Gazette staff writer

WEST DES MOINES — When the sun came up Friday and shone through the bedroom windows of the two-story brick house, there was not a sound.

The once familiar door slam, the yelp of a dachshund, the patter of feet on the concrete drive as John Gosch's son left home to deliver newspapers are just memories.

John Gosch turned 40 this day, a point in life often filled with good-natured ribbing of being over the hill and replies that life is just beginning.

If things were normal, son Johnny would have returned from the newspaper route, sneaked into his parents' bedroom and jabbed his father with a probing finger. "Dad," he would have said. "Dad, wake up."

John Gosch would have rolled over and come face-to-face with his grinning 14-year-old son.

"Happy birthday, Dad," Johnny would have said, presenting a small, hand-wrapped gift purchased with money earned from the paper route.

That's how the Gosches believe it would have been Friday. But it wasn't that way at all.

Johnny Gosch is gone, having vanished 19 months ago while starting his route. His family believes he was kidnapped. Gretchen, the dog, is dead of a broken spine, having rallied a few weeks ago from

## Special report

✓ The Gosches' crusade has turned into an effort to save other children, page 4A.

✓ Adversity filled Mrs. Gosch's life even before her son's disappearance, page 4A.

✓ Last year, 516 children were reported missing in Cedar Rapids, page 4A.

a couch. Friday, the house was quiet with loneliness.

John and his wife, Noreen, embraced for a moment and then wearily began the day. Noreen dressed for her job, as a secretary at nearby Economic Laboratories, and left the house. John went to his office in the loft of their home and shuffled through lists of farm-chemical customers. These jobs, once a source of satisfaction, now provide necessary diversion.

Always tightly knit, the Gosch family is no longer whole. And without Johnny it never can be again.

Christine Gosch, 21, is away at college and preparing for a summer

• Please turn to 4A: Gosch

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# Gosch

From page 1A

wedding. If her little brother can't be there it will not be a typical celebration. Joseph Gosch, 19, also is attending college and misses having a younger brother to tease.

The emptiness is evident when Noreen returns home in mid-afternoon. As she polished the kitchen table for company Friday evening, the telephone rang. For half-an-hour she retold the story of her missing son. Outside, a neighbor boy rode his bicycle down the street and returned with two friends to play.

On the hallway wall hung a plaster of Paris of Johnny's kindergarten handprint. Below it was a decoupage cutting board, a recipe for baking when little Johnny was always getting his hands in the bowl. On the floor were boxes and boxes of literature, "Help Find Johnny Gosch" emblazoned on the leaflets and newsletters. In the garage were cartons of candy bars being sold to raise money for the search effort.

The call was from "PTL," a national television show, wanting to arrange an interview with the Gosches for an upcoming series on missing children.

Then John came home from helping his boss finish his basement and laid an arrowhead on the table. Johnny would have been intrigued by the item.

"How does it feel, John?" Noreen asked, referring to her husband's 40th birthday.

"Fact is, I've got a headache," he replied.

"That's how it is when you get old," said Noreen, also 40. "That's what you told me on my birthday."

Noreen explained that Linda Otto from Alan Landsburg Productions called earlier in the day. The company had produced the television movie "Adam," about a missing boy, and they wanted to do the Gosch story. Otto said the company would put up enough money, whatever it takes, to find Johnny if they could have the rights to the story. A decision must be made by April 30.

"I say go," John said.

"I would say so, too," Noreen replied.

TIME PASSED slowly as they talked—about upcoming appoint-

ments and requests for appearances, all having to do with their missing son. John announced he was hungry and left the house quietly.

"You won't get much from him today," Noreen said. "This has really ripped him apart. He loves all the children, but Johnny is his only biological child. It put him into a state of shock. You couldn't believe the pain."

"Last year on his birthday John spent the whole day alone in the woods, searching," she said, her soft blue eyes watering. But she did not allow a tear to fall.

Noreen recalled last Mother's Day when she and John went to Quad City Downs for a benefit to raise money for the search. She had worn dark glasses to hide the emotion she usually masks with a heartfelt antagonism toward law enforcement agencies she feels should have moved more quickly to find her son when he was first reported missing.

John returned to the house with Kentucky Fried Chicken, coleslaw, mashed potatoes and rolls. Fast food is a typical supper now, with Noreen so busy she doesn't have time to cook. For a few minutes the house was somehow peacefully quiet.

Then the telephone rang again. A representative from Olan Mills wanted to know if the Gosches would like to have a family portrait taken in time for Christmas.

"No, thank you," Noreen said. "We don't need any pictures until we get our son, Johnny, back . . . Yes, we're the ones."

Hanging up, she was angry. "How could they not know," she said. "We're the only John Gosch in the book."

Again the phone rang. It was some friends; they were coming over early for a meeting tonight. Soon the living room was crowded with volunteers seated on folding chairs that have become permanent fixtures. Plans for a benefit dance and a fund-raising air show were discussed. Some people filtered to the kitchen for coffee.

"We used to visit a lot back and forth," recalled Marilyn McKnight, a longtime friend. "It used to be so light and cheerful. Now it's this, that's all that's on your mind."

Ron Sampson, president of the Help Find Johnny Gosch Foundation, echoed those sentiments.

"I don't think people feel John and Noreen can have a private life. We try to treat them like normal people, I hope that's what we're doing," he said, referring to snowmobile outings taken last winter. One time everyone got a chuckle out of Noreen falling harmlessly from a snowmobile.

"It makes you feel good that you made them laugh, that they can forget it for a little while," Ron said.

THE MEETING broke up and people gathered around the television to watch a recording of John and Noreen on the "Phil Donahue Show" (to be aired on KGAN, Channel 2, Wednesday at 8 a.m.). They have appeared on numerous national programs to promote interest in finding missing children.

Again the telephone rang; a psychic from Canada said Johnny was in a maroon van being driven out of Texas by a man named Bret, or Brent. This was one of more than 200 psychics who have contacted the Gosches at one time or another.

Every lead, every telephone call, has to be checked. Johnny could call again, like he did in March. Or someone could report another sighting of Johnny; there have been 15 so far.

THE HOUSE began to empty as 11 p.m. approached. Noreen checked her schedule of nightly meetings around the state. "I've got Wednesday off," she exclaimed. "What'll you do?" someone asked. "Probably my nails," she said, smiling for an instant, knowing that the wear and tear of the hunt for her son is no excuse for not maintaining an attractive appearance.

Soon the front door closed as the last friends left. But the porch light stayed on all night, like it has since Johnny disappeared.

Noreen and John Gosch, exhausted, walked slowly up the stairway past the bedroom still preserved as it was when Johnny was home.

Today John Gosch had turned another day older, another year older. And it was another day, another year, without his son.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosches ask FBI to cease looking for son

By The Associated Press

The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch says the FBI has "bungled" the case so badly that it ought to drop its investigation, but an FBI spokesman said the agency will continue looking for the boy.

"It's not possible for an individual to just pull the FBI off of a federal investigation," said Ed Gooderman, special agent in the agency's public affairs office in Washington, D.C.

Noreen Gosch has asked the FBI to end its investigation into the 30-month-long disappearance of her son, now 14 years old.

"They have bungled it so badly we feel it has jeopardized his life more than a dozen times," she said. "We would rather have them just back out."

She said her husband, John, formally made the request Thursday night to the FBI in Washington.

Herb Hawkins, special agent in charge of FBI operations in Iowa and Nebraska, said he had not previously heard of the request. But he said the investigation would continue.

"We have a missing child, the circumstances of which are still a mystery," he said. "We are operating under the assumption that foul play was involved. Based on that, we are continuing on the case."

Johnny Gosch, then age 12, disappeared early Sept. 5, 1982, while preparing to work his Des Moines Register newspaper route near his home. Witnesses said he was last seen talking to a man in a blue car.

Since their son first disappeared, the Gosches have been highly critical of what they said was inaction and indifference on the part of state and local authorities.

Noreen Gosch charged that the FBI has been slow to pursue leads in the case and has given the family conflicting stories about the availability of telephone records needed to trace calls believed to be from her son. Hawkins denied Gosch's claim that the FBI has been slow in following up leads.

"We've worked as fast as we possibly can inside the environmental limitations ... that is the ability of other entities to cooperate what we're asking for," he said.

He acknowledged that it has been difficult to obtain phone records that may shed some light on three phone calls Noreen Gosch said she received Feb. 23 from someone she believed was her son. She has asked the FBI to obtain records of all long-distance phone calls made in the country around that date, Hawkins said.

"All we can do is ask the phone company, make certain requests," he said. "If AT&T decides that the request is not attainable because of their physical limitations, then there's nothing we can do about it."

An American Telephone and Telegraph Co. spokesman said on Friday that despite the increasing use of computers in the industry, it is sometimes impossible to track long-distance phone calls.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 5/12/84

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;  
Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

Sub A-149

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1984	

SAC

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Omaha World Herald,  
Omaha, Nebraska

Date:

Edition: Metropolitan

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

Character:

or

Classification: OM 7-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Gosches Ask FBI to Drop Search, Saying Agency Has 'Bungled It'

Des Moines (AP) — The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch Jr. publicly asked the FBI Friday to end its investigation into his 20-month-long disappearance.

"We are asking the FBI to give up the search for Johnny," said Noreen Gosch in a telephone interview from her West Des Moines home. "They have bungled it so badly we feel it has jeopardized his life more than a dozen times. We would rather have them just back out."

Mrs. Gosch said her husband, John, formally made the request Thursday night to the FBI in Washington, D.C.

Herb Hawkins, special agent in charge of FBI operations in Iowa and

Nebraska, said he had not heard of the request until being told of it by a reporter. But he said as far as he is concerned, the investigation will continue.

"We have a missing child, the circumstances of which are still a mystery," he said in a telephone interview from his office in Omaha. "We are operating under the assumption that foul play was involved. Based on that we are continuing on the case."

#### "Slow Pursuing Leads"

Johnny Gosch disappeared Sept. 6, 1982, while preparing to deliver his early morning Des Moines Register newspaper route in an upper-middle-income neighborhood near his home. Witnesses said the boy, then age 12, was

last seen talking to a man in a blue car. Mrs. Gosch charged that the FBI has been slow to pursue leads in her son's case, that the family has received conflicting stories from the FBI about the availability of telephone records needed to trace purported phone calls from her son, and has been negligent in its handling of other aspects of the investigation.

She alleged there have been delays "on every single thing that we ask them to do. Then the man with Johnny leaves, and we can't get to him. Due to the lack of response and the bungling on many occasions, we no longer can trust the FBI to act on our behalf."

7A-1053-Sub-A-116/

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 16 1984	
FBI-OMAHA	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

Since Johnny's disappearance, the Gosches have used private investigators for assistance in locating their son. Mrs. Gosch said a private agency in Chicago is working on the case.

**"Totally Untrue"**

"They have been very, very good," she said. "They have helped us ten times more than any other police agency in the country."

Hawkins denied Mrs. Gosch's claim that his agency has been slow in following up leads.

"That's totally untrue," he said. "We've worked as fast as we possibly can inside the environmental limitations -- that is, the ability of other entities to produce what we're asking for.

"Some of these leads take time -- they don't just occur within seconds. That's just the cold, hard fact of it."

He acknowledged it has been a difficult process obtaining phone records that may shed some light on three calls Mrs. Gosch said she received Feb. 22 from someone she believes was her son. She has asked the FBI to obtain records of all long-distance phone calls made in the country around that date, Hawkins said.

"All we can do is ask the phone company to make certain requests," he said. "If AT&T (American Telephone and Telegraph) decides that the request is not attainable because of physical limitations, then there's nothing we can do about it. We cannot order any corporation in this country to do what we want them to do."

**Threatened**

"The FBI has worked very diligently on this case from its inception," he said.

"I can understand the frustrations of the Gosches. We all can. We've been doing everything possible from the beginning to locate that child."

Mrs. Gosch also said that a stranger recently came to her door and warned that if she continued appearances in which she has gained national publicity seeking help in locating her son and attacking law enforcement officials, she would be killed "in the same manner as Karen Silkwood."

Ms. Silkwood, a worker for a plutonium plant, died when her car went off a road while she was en route to a meeting with a reporter to discuss her allegations of missing plutonium and falsified safety reports.

Hawkins said he was not familiar with her report of a death threat.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Waterloo, Iowa Page A-13  
Waterloo Courier

Date: 5/8/84  
 Edition: Daily  
 Unknown Subject;  
 Title: John D. Gosch-Victim  
 Possible Kidnapping  
 OO: Omaha

Character:  
 or  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

## Truckers helping in Gosch search

DES MOINES (AP) — The search for missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch is getting a boost from trucking companies and trucking journals.

In its May publication, "CRST Dispatch," CRST Inc. of Cedar Rapids has appealed to its 1,100 readers, many of them company drivers, to look for the youngster and "end this family's nightmare."

"CRST employees are in a unique position to help in this type of case" because they are spread across the nation, said Ruth Kinzey, CRST spokeswoman.

And "Heavy Duty Trucking," a trade journal printed in Newport Beach, Calif., said it would print a picture of Gosch and tell of his disappearance in its June edition. The Iowa Motor Truck Association, based in Des Moines, will reprint the article in its weekly publication.

Also, the Washington, D.C.-based "American Truck Association" will feature a story about the youngster in its weekly magazine.

Gosch disappeared Sept. 3, 1982, a few blocks from his home as he prepared to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register.

2 - Omaha (1 - 7A-1053)  
 DM dm (1 - 80-592)

7A-1053 sub A-164

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1984	
FBI/DOJ	

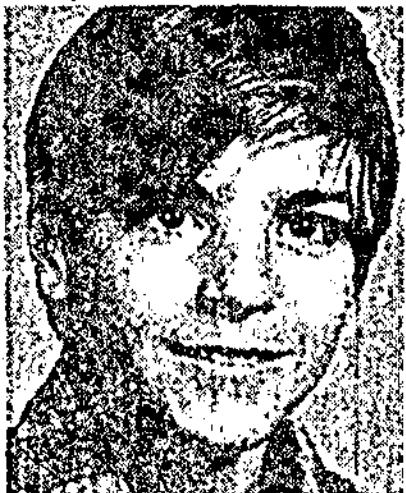
b6  
b7c

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# After 2 years, Gosches continue their struggle



Johnny Gosch



## Search goes on

Gene Martin was reported sighted in New Mexico Saturday, but police here were skeptical, and the boy's mother tearfully expressed her fear the search was stalling. STORY: Page 1B.

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Two years, \$100,000 and tons of chocolate candy bars later, John and Noreen Gosch continue searching for their son, a boy whose name is known to thousands.

What happened to Johnny Gosch on Sept. 5, 1982, after he left the house with his wagon and small dog, Gretchen, to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register and didn't return? Nobody knows — still.

It's the unknown that's unbearable, said John Gosch. But he and his wife, Noreen, continue to believe that Johnny, now 14, is alive, and they say the search for the answer will never end.

"Not until our bones are dust and we can't move," John Gosch said, sitting in the living room of the family's West Des Moines home.

Across the room on a couch where shadows begin to stretch in the late afternoon sun, Noreen Gosch added, "If and when we find him, we can look him square in the eye and say we did everything possible to find you."

And they have done it all.

They have papered the nation with thousands of posters, appeared on all major television networks more than once, spoken before congressional committees to warn of child abductions and pushed for state legislation that now requires police departments to move quickly on suspected abductions.

They have sent (at a cost of \$3,000) their Chicago-based private detectives as far away as Texas to follow a lead, sold more than 80,000 candy

Please turn to Page 10A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1A and 10A  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/19/84  
Edition: Morning

Title UNSUB;  
EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;  
UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or  
Classification 7-1145 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053 Sub A-196

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - DES MOINES	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

# There's no room for self pity, Gosches say

**GOSCH**

Continued from Page One

bars, borrowed on their life insurance policies, held garage sales and warned of abductions in speeches in gymnasiums and town halls dotted across Iowa.

Noreen Gosch carries a pager that keeps her a phone call away from an answering service. Her speaking engagements, some of them out of state, are booked solid until next spring. The Gosches have been approached by authors and at least two movie companies to tell their story but there have been no agreements. Noreen Gosch said there hasn't been time to give them serious thought.

They continue to work at full-time jobs. He is district sales manager for American Cyanamid Co., she is office manager for Economics Lab Inc. in West Des Moines.

They have taken on the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. (for not helping trace brief phone calls they say came from their son who was appealing for help Feb. 22), the FBI (for purportedly moving slowly in the investigation), and the president of the United States (for failing to respond to their letters).

Their assaults on officialdom — given widespread media coverage, including the Phil Donahue Show in March — have angered more than a few people. After listening to a lecture by Noreen Gosch, a man rose to accuse her of not having a son and said the fabrication was to gain attention.

## Without a Trace

But there are the compliments and the awe that surround the couple's ability to stay with it. At a Farmers' Unity Coalition meeting called recently in a western Iowa town to find ways of boosting the farm economy and morale, a participant told the group: "What we need is a Noreen Gosch."

Their search gained new impetus last Sunday when another newsboy, Eugene Martin, 13, disappeared while delivering the Des Moines Sunday



Noreen Gosch with the familiar picture of Johnny.

Register in a south-side Des Moines neighborhood, some seven miles from where Johnny was last seen. There was no trace of Gene, just as there was no trace of Johnny. The Gosches shared the Martins' grief; they knew the emotion as few others can.

The FBI, state and local police, slow to combine forces and focus on the Gosch case, jumped in.

The uncanny similarities of the two apparent kidnappings suggest they are connected, but investigators say a link hasn't been established.

There have been few, if any, clues. It was as if the youngsters vanished into thin air.

With Martin missing, the search for both boys has now intensified. There was a promise of help last week from President Ronald Reagan, who phoned The Register to express his regrets and to say he was appalled.

If it hadn't been for Johnny's disappearance, Noreen Gosch said, "police would not have responded the way they have" in the Martin case. "It would have just been another missing kid," she said.

But are the two cases linked? "It's hard to say," John Gosch said.

"The slickness is so smooth. It's as if the individual knew what he was doing."

Angered by the West Des Moines Police Department's handling of their case, the Gosches say they've had to fight for any help they got.

"We got a call from a man about

three weeks ago in Texas who worked in a motel and he said he saw a man come in with a boy who fit the description of Johnny," Noreen said. The motel operator had one of the Johnny Gosch posters hanging in his office.

"He called the FBI. But in two hours nothing happened so he called us." Their phone number was on the poster.

"We didn't know what to do. This could be Johnny so we decided to send the private investigator."

The trip cost \$3,000 and yielded nothing. While there were resemblances, the youngster wasn't Johnny.

"The Martins are very nice people," said Noreen Gosch. "They looked like they were about to go over the edge when we walked in to see them. When you look at their faces you know what they're feeling. It helped both of us, I know."

## Bedroom the Same

Johnny's bedroom remains the same as it was the day he disappeared. The Help Find Johnny Gosch Committee, made up of about 20 volunteers, continues to meet bi-weekly to plan fund-raising events and abduction awareness programs.

Two years of searching have

REGISTER PHOTOS BY DAVID PETERSON



John Gosch: "I believed in the system."

strained the marriage. Said John Gosch: "It's been tough on everybody. But we haven't turned to drugs or anything like that."

Of his wife he said: "I have never seen a stronger individual that will not take no for an answer when the cause is for the right reason."

She said of her husband: "I have seen a deepness of compassion and sensitivity that doesn't come out of many people."

#### **Believed in the System**

Added John Gosch, "I believed in the system. I knew it worked but No-reen told me to watch it and I thought she wasn't telling the truth. I see what she means."

They say they have no choice but to continue.

"There's no room for pity and ask, 'Why us?'" she said. "That's self-serving. If we didn't continue, who would?"

There have been moments of comfort.

After a speaking engagement in which she told the audience that with her two older children gone, there were no children living at home, No-reen Gosch was approached by a boy.

"He pushed his way through the crowd and said, 'If your kids don't live at home I'll bet there isn't anybody to give you hugs!'"

With that she wept.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Investigators offer views on disappearances

By FRANK SANTIAGO and TOM ALEX  
*Associated Press Writers*

Two investigators who help find missing children say the mystery persons or persons involved in the disappearances of two Des Moines-area newspaper carriers is likely from the community and may have been known to the youngsters.

"My guess is," said Dennis G. Whelan, a private detective from Omaha, "that these kids were staked out and put under surveillance. The person who did it knew them and I think it's a person within the community."

Jay Howell, executive director of the Center on Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C., said, "I don't think it's a transient."

"To me, the cases suggest more of a plan," Howell said. "It's a lot less spontaneous than the public situations at carnivals and shopping centers" where children have been abducted.

The observations were made in recent telephone interviews as local investigators continued to hunt for information about Eugene Wade Martin, 14, of Des Moines, who disappeared Aug. 12, and Johnny Gosch, also 14, of West Des Moines, who has been gone since Sept. 5, 1982. Both vanished without a trace while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register. Although there are many similarities, the two cases haven't been linked by the authorities.

Investigators have considered that a local person may be involved but, police have said, it is only one of a number of possibilities. They have been unable to say which scenario is more plausible than the other because of the titter lack of information.

Herbert Hawkins, FBI agent-in-charge of the regional office in Omaha, reiterated, "We still want that one clue that would put us on the right track."

No new leads were reported Tuesday.

Whelan, who had been hired by Neleen and John Gosch to find their son but is no longer employed by them, said, "The area where Johnny was taken from [Forty-third Street and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines] is off the beaten track. It's not an area where you just go to if you're new in town.

"I think the kids might have somewhere along the line known the individual who spoke to them," he said.

There is a possibility, he said, that the apparent kidnapper was disguised, and the youngsters believed he was a policeman or a representative of the newspaper.

Howell said that in his six years of studying missing children, including three years with a U.S. Senate subcommittee that investigated the problem, the disappearances here appear to be the first of a kind.

Meanwhile, singer Wayne Newton, who performed at the Iowa State Fair last week, contributed \$5,000 to a reward fund for information leading to the recovery of the newspaper carriers. The money and \$1,000 pledges each from Stroh Corp. and Teamsters Local 87, boosted the fund's total to \$76,500 Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Las Vegas entertainer said Newton had been jogging when he saw several posters of the missing youngsters.

"He read about it and he was saddened," the spokesman said. "He wanted to do something and to encourage other performers at the fair to match his pledge."

FBI agents have been at The Des Moines Register examining employee files to determine who had contact with the newspaper's circulation department or who worked as carriers during the past two years, according to Barbara Mack, general counsel. Mack said there "was no targeting," that the agents were simply looking for names that may have come up elsewhere in the investigation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 8/22/84

Edition Morning

UNSUB:

Title EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM:

UNSUB:

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character KIDNAPING

or 7-1145 & 7-1053

Classification OMAHA

Submitting Office OMAHA

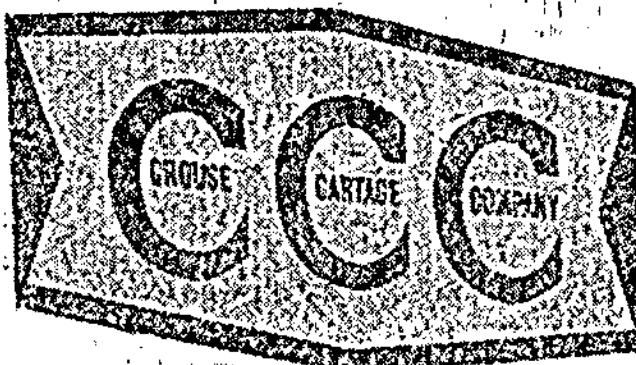
Indexing

7-1053 Sub A-197

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REGISTER PHOTO BY LARRY E. NEIBERGALL



*"Service is Our Specialty!"*

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS YOUNG MAN. HAVE YOU SEEN THIS YOUNG MAN.



EUGENE MARTIN  
REWARD CALL  
515-246-9988



JOHNNY GOSCH  
REWARD CALL  
515-246-9988



Scott Crouse of Des Moines prepares a truck for departure at the Crouse Cartage Co. Posters offering a reward for information about missing newspaper tafflers Eugene Martin and Johnny Gosch were posted on the company's trucks, which travel throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Council may add to Martin-Gosch fund

By **FRANK SANTIAGO** and **TOM ALEX****Register Staff Writers**

Councilman Archie Brooks will ask the Des Moines City Council Monday to add \$25,000 to a reward fund seeking information on the whereabouts of missing newsboys Eugene Martin and Johnny Gosch.

In a letter Brooks mailed to the other six council members, he sought their support in asking City Manager Richard Wilkey to find the money in the budget, presumably the general fund.

"It's hard to put it in words but the loss has left an imprint on this city. Every person is angry and hurt," Brooks said. "I feel government must preserve the well-being of its citizenry and what has happened justifies using the money."

Brooks said he was uncertain if the council would go along with his idea at its regular meeting but, according to City Attorney Philip Riley, the city has offered reward money before. However, Riley couldn't recall when or how much.

"Rewards are an ancient and honorable method to bring people to justice," Riley said.

A \$25,000 contribution, which would match the \$25,000 pledge made by the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company earlier, would boost the total reward money to well over \$100,000.

By Wednesday, \$84,000 had been pledged. Latest pledges received were \$5,000 from the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co., \$1,000 from the Iowan Magazine, \$500 from the employees of Stew Hansen's Dodge City in Des Moines and \$1,000 from the Home Builders' Association of Greater Des Moines.

Among other contributions Tuesday was \$1,000 from Teamsters Local 387 of Des Moines.

The reward is for information leading to the recovery of either Martin, 14, of Des Moines, who disappeared Aug. 12, or Gosch who was 12 when he vanished Sept. 5, 1982, in



Eugene Martin

**Hot line: 246-9988**

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 5M  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Date. 8/23/84  
Edition. Morning

Title **UNSUB;**  
**EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;**  
**UNSUB;**  
**JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM**

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1145 & 7-1053  
Submitting Office. OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053 Sub A-198

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West Des Moines. Both were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register in residential areas about seven miles apart.

Des Moines Police Department spokesman Sgt. William Mullins said it was difficult to say if the swelling reward fund was attracting information.

"In the past 24 hours," he said, "we've gotten only 20 calls on the hot line [246-9988]. That's well below the hundreds of calls we were getting in the first few days."

But, added Mullins, "We're thankful for the interest and we're hopeful that it will provide that one bit of information we need."

The disappearances continue to baffle investigators.

Mullins said most callers have been reporting "sightings" which are difficult to trace and many of which have been suspicious.

Callers have said they saw Martin selling tomatoes at a roadside stand in a neighboring state, Martin and Gosch riding an Amtrak train between Chicago and New York, and Martin in a Maryland shopping center.

Despite the lagging hot line calls, efforts on behalf of the two missing boys appeared to be gaining momentum.

Hundreds of thousands of posters have been distributed throughout the community and well into the state and beyond. One Des Moines resident who recently went into a bathhouse near a Wisconsin lake said she saw a poster pinned to the wall.

Anderson Erickson Dairy has announced it plans to reproduce the posters on containers of its dairy products. Thousands of the posters, translated into Spanish, are to be sent by The Register to newspapers in Mexico urging the publishers to run the posters as a public service. Posters already have been distributed to newspapers throughout the United States with a similar plea.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Noreen Gosech denies assault

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Associated Press writer

Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines, mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, denied Monday that she reported to Davenport police recently that she was assaulted there by her husband.

She said the report was part of a broad-based effort to embarrass her and "was typical of a lot of harassment" directed at her by organizations and individuals she has spoken out against, including homosexual groups. She didn't specify which groups or individuals.

A story in the Aug. 21 Quad-City Times of Davenport reported that Gosch made the report to Davenport police a few days earlier. Dan Foley, managing editor of the Quad-City Times, said Monday, "We stand by the story. We had a reporter check with police again Monday and they gave us assurances the information was correct."

Corporal Tom D'Auben of the Davenport Police Department said, referring to Noreen Gosch, "If she said she didn't call us, she is in error."

He said that the call had come from a Davenport motel, that an officer went to the motel and talked to Noreen Gosch and advised her the incident happened in Bettendorf and it was matter for that community's police department.

According to the newspaper story, Gosch told police that her husband, John, had assaulted her while they were driving about midnight on Interstate Highway 74 in or near the Quad Cities. They were attending a wedding in the area at the time, the newspaper quoted police as saying.

Police said there were no injuries and no charges were filed, according to the newspaper.

The Times, he said, first heard of the story from Rock Island, Ill., radio station WHBF, which it had monitored.

"We followed up on it, too, and wrote the story. This morning (Monday) we had somebody go back to the Bettendorf police department and we got assurances from them the information was accurate," Foley said.

Noreen Gosch said that after the Times' story appeared, she contacted the newspaper, told them the story was false, "and they offered to publish a retraction."

Foley, however, said that he knew nothing about a retraction and that the newspaper "was certain as can be about the information."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/28/84

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053 Sub A-200

Q

Q

W

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)  
 Page 1M and 4M  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/28/84  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VIC;  
 UNSUB;  
 EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VIC;  
 Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7-105 & 7-1145  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:



Johnny Gosch...  
as family believes he now looks

By FRANK SANTIAGO

*Review Staff Writer*

A charcoal drawing of a long-haired youth with broad shoulders is what missing newsboy Johnny Gosch looks like today, say his parents, Noreen and John Gosch, who believe the youngster is still alive.

Prepared by a Washington, D. C.-based forensic artist not identified by the family, the drawing is the latest in a series of attempts to picture Gosch as he might look now, nearly two years after he disappeared while delivering newspapers near his home in West Des Moines. He was 12 then.

Earlier, the FBI doctored the youngster's original photograph so that Gosch appears a little older, with a longer face, minus his freckles. It also showed a boy that appeared heavier.

The Gosches, who recently released the charcoal drawing, claimed the FBI artist's work was unrealistic because it failed to take into account reports from people who have said

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they have seen their son.

"We've had 10 sightings and they have told us he has longer hair; he's thinner; is more than 6 feet tall; he walks with a limp and has a slurred speech pattern," Noreen Gosch said.

She said the limp and the slurred speech have resulted from "frequent beatings" by men the Goscches say are holding their son captive.

Gosch disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

Meanwhile, the search for newsboy Eugene Martin, who disappeared on Des Moines' south side on Aug. 12, also while delivering the Sunday Register, continues without any leads. Sgt. William Mullins, Des Moines Police Department spokesman, said police will soon abandon the broad searches and concentrate on "directed" searches those requested by investigators.

He said the directed searches will be done by

police only and will not require volunteers.

The FBI's Bob Keane, special agent in the Des Moines office, said that a "few agents" had been removed from the case but that the "it remains a major investigation" by the agency. He declined to say, however, how many agents had been reassigned.

There were 18 agents assigned shortly after Martin disappeared.

The federal agents continue meeting each morning with local police and Division of Criminal Investigation agents to discuss strategy.

Searches the past two weekends have turned up an assortment of items police weren't looking for. Found were computer parts, newspaper carrier bags, stereo equipment and what was thought to

GOSCH  
Please turn to Page 4M



Johnny Gosch...  
...as FBI thinks he might look now

# Register may hire safety coordinator

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page 1M*

be a dug gravesite. It turned out to be a fresh pile of dirt apparently left by a payloader.

None of the finds, according to the police, was helpful in the investigation.

## 'Awareness' Programs

John Miksch, The Register's circulation director, said that the newspaper is considering hiring a safety coordinator, who would conduct "awareness" programs among carriers.

The coordinator would instruct carriers on how to recognize potential trouble and avoid it, Miksch said. Since Martin's disappearance, 50 of The Register's 7,000 carriers statewide have quit the newspaper, he said.

All of the carriers are being provided whistles that they have been instructed to use in the event of problems while delivering the papers.

Miksch estimated that about 50 percent of the eligible carriers in the Des Moines metropolitan area have requested that the newspaper bundles be dropped at their homes rather than left at a drop sight.

## Reward Increased

On Monday night, the Des Moines City Council voted unanimously to add \$25,000 to reward offers in the disappearances of Gosch and Martin.



A collection of drawings prepared by a Chicago Tribune artist with assistance from the Gosch family. The drawings show John Gosch as he might appear two years after his disappearance. Gosch is shown with long hair; medium-length hair; short hair and raggedly cut; unkempt hair.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Children as victims of a sick society

Another child has been snatched from our streets....

Why? We have just suffered through the moral phases of Miss America and her need to pose for smutty photos. The public broke its pious neck to get a glimpse of the nudity and naughty suggestions.

Why? Each time a group condemns the outrageous filth so prevalent throughout the land, another group prepares itself to fight for its existence.

Cruelty has become a way of life but until it is personally dumped on our doorstep we pay little heed.

Why? We are obsessed with sex! Nothing pinpoints its vulgarities and sadist pleasure more than the porno material. We condemn the fortune hunters as sickos. But what about the nice people who plunk down \$5 to view the sickos' work?

Our children have become victims of untold horrors for the explicit purpose of bringing joy to those who receive their monthly publication of filth. We tell ourselves that it is harmless; we are good people who would never practice those acts. We would never inflict pain or sexual abuse upon an animal or child. [But], there are some who would. What tips the balance?

The moral issue is not with those who would line their pockets with the misery of others. Their kind has always been with us. The moral issue is with those of us who feel no shame that our need for the unusual has blinded us to its warping effects and consequences.

I firmly believe that decent people must stop buying and viewing these publications. Demand keeps the presses running. The lack of it holds promise of giving us a safer and more sane society. — Irish Cowell, 913 S. Fairmont, Sioux City.

I am a 34-year-old Negro mother with two sons, one 15 years old, one 2 years old. We live on the welfare system. But I could not live one day without either of my sons.

I personally hurt inside for the Gosch and Martin families. Every day and night I will pray that their sons are found. I want them to know that God is love, and keep faith. Although at this time the tunnel looks dark, someday, I hope soon, there will be light. And they will see their sons.

As a parent, I raise my 15-year-old to believe that the world is a good and just place. Now it makes you wonder if it is still good and safe. You could never have told me when I was 15 years old that people are like they are now. So many just don't care for one another. There are so many wicked, per-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Page 6C

The Des Moines Sunday Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 9/2/84

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;  
EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;  
Title UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character KTDNAPING

or  
Classification: 7-1145 & 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7A-1053 Sub A-208

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 4 1984	
FBI-OMAHA	



JOHN  
GOSCH



EUGENE  
MARTIN

## *Officer's faith restored*

Police officers are subjected daily to our society's most unsavory individuals. After prolonged exposure, an officer's perspective can become warped. In the last two weeks, my own perception of people has been rejuvenated in a very positive sense.

Our community's response to the Eugene Martin case has been remarkable. I have worked with the search parties since the initial report, and am amazed daily at the number and dedication of our volunteer help. They have scrutinized much of the metropolitan area's most rugged terrain, endured myriad insect bites as well as infectious weeds, and still they keep coming back.

The ranks of our volunteers have represented nearly all sectors of society, including students, general laborers, mechanics, management personnel, politicians, lawyers, school teachers and a Catholic bishop. This altruistic spirit even goes beyond our city limits; the Fort Dodge Civil Patrol has been invaluable, and the Forest City Police Department also deserves recognition. Concern for another's less is universal.

It is gratifying to know that people do still care, and will help their fellow man. Thank you for restoring my faith in people, and I applaud your spirit. — Michael Nehringer, Des Moines Police Department, East First and Court, Des Moines.

verted people. So many religious cults. So much hatred for each other. So much pornography involving children.

But when you sink so low as dogs and steal children, something is wrong. These children were trying to become responsible and self-support-

ing young adults....

I am going to watch my children and pray for everyone else's. — Carolyn Keown, 926 Oakridge Drive, Bldg. 229, Apt. 46, Des Moines.

It's so sad to read that another young boy has disappeared in a way almost identical to the circumstances of Johnny Gosch. We can only pray that they both shall be found and that their parents receive spiritual strength from all the prayers that are being said for them....

This is one sick country. Our morals and spiritual values are practically non-existent.

When are tougher laws going to be made for the crime of child molesting?... — Larry Riley, 2021 Second St., Perry.

[A recent article said] you were contemplating delivering the newspapers directly to each carrier's home, and also a later delivery time on Sundays.

I would gladly wait on my morning paper if I thought it might save one child from the terror Eugene and Johnny have experienced. — Mrs. DeAnna Hofert, 2818 E. Twenty-seventh St., Des Moines.

If at all possible, the kidnapping of a third young person who delivers The Register must be prevented. In hopes that others will be moved to submit more and better suggestions on how to do this, I submit the following:

First, Des Moines-area city councils could pass ordinances stating that no young person can deliver papers in early morning hours unless accompanied by an adult or a big dog.

Second, since some individuals have little time to read The Register before they leave for work, they could have their paper delivered at home by young persons in after-school hours. Perhaps The Register could charge slightly less if customers choose this option.

Third, those who desire home delivery of papers in the early morning hours could pay slightly more for this service. Such deliveries could be done by adults in the same fashion that postal workers deliver the mail. — Ted Anderson, 1404 E. Walnut, Apt. 309, Des Moines.

I don't know how the newspaper gets by with child labor.

Adults are looking for jobs. There should be adults delivering newspapers.

Let's learn from this 12-year-old disappearing while he was out delivering papers — he should have been home in bed.... — Marianne Scuders, Rt. 2, Scranton.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Odyssey of hope and despair

By LARRY FRUHLING and BOB SHAW

Register Staff Writers

Several days after 14-year-old Eugene Martin vanished, Donald and Sue Martin, Eugene's father and stepmother, found themselves in a yellow and black sedan, riding with a stranger down the narrow road through a rural Polk County graveyard.

The Martins were with a middle-aged, husky man who identified himself only as "Bernie." He had come to the door saying his psychic powers would lead the Martins to the graves of Eugene, Johnny Gosch, and three other young men.

Bernie drove southeastward from the Martins' home at a maddeningly slow speed. Occasionally he pulled off the street and rubbed his eyes as though in deep concentration. The Martins became increasingly edgy as Bernie seemed to put himself in the place of Eugene, and then, as Eugene lapsed into unconsciousness, in the place of the boy's abductor.

A week earlier, the Martins could in no way have imagined such a bizarre ride. Married only four months, they and the children that each brought to the newly formed household were busy adjusting to one another. Their main worry was that Donald was out of work and money was scarce.

Now, Eugene had vanished from a street corner on Des Moines' south side in a haunting rerun of the disappearance of Johnny Gosch from a West Des Moines street corner nearly two years earlier. And the Martins' lives were cast upon an odyssey of grief, horror, faint hopes and crushing despair — an all-too-familiar journey for two other Iowa families, those of the Gosch boy and of Corinne Perry of Crostton.

Within hours of Eugene's disappearance, the Martins were under the magnifying lenses of detectives and reporters. Within days, they had learned of the slimy underworld of child pornography and prostitution. Within two weeks, they had seen the story of Eugene's disappearance fade away under the dead

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1A and 6A

The Des Moines Sunday Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

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Submitting Office: OMAHA

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7A-1053 Sub A-209

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 7 1984	
FBI - OMAHA	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

REGISTER PHOTO BY SCOTT SEIK



Sue and Donald Martin

weight of new no leads, no new information.

Donald and Sue Martin, and Eugene's mother, Janice Martin, were the people most directly affected by Eugene's disappearance on Aug. 12 as he prepared to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register to his 58 customers in a middle-class south side neighborhood.

But hundreds of other lives were touched, too. An army of volunteers plastered the nation with "missing person" posters, searched woods and corn fields, and did whatever else they could to solve the mystery of Eugene Martin's disappearance. Attention was focused anew on the Gosch and Perry families and wounds that had never closed. Parents found fresh concerns for their own children.

This story is about people cast into unfamiliar roles by the disappearances of three young people. It

**MISSING**

Please turn to Page 6A

# Gene 'didn't run away — his birthday was coming'

## MISSING

Continued from Page One

is about fear, hope and anger, and most of all about the unbearable suspense of three mysteries that have eluded a conclusion, one for two years, one for 17 months, and one for three agonizing weeks.

Almost four hours went by before "Bernie," the psychic, had made his way with Don and Sue Martin to Avon Cemetery southeast of the Des Moines city limits — a trip of no more than six miles from the Martins' house at 1905 Frazier Ave. Inside the cemetery, Bernie said it had grown too dark to find the graves. By then, the Martins were frightened and only too happy to call off the whole thing.

"Not too many people scare me, but he had my skin crawling," Donald Martin said later.

The Martins, a friend and a policeman went back the next day to search the cemetery. They found nothing and they heard no more from Bernie.

Dec. 18-21, 1983: "God, how appalling to have to sell a piece of chocolate to find our boy. . . . Christie and Tammy are working Locust Street Mall selling candy. A lady walks up to Christie, spits on her and says, 'I wouldn't help your mother find that kid if it was the last thing I ever did.' Our daughter fell completely apart. That will be the last time any of our children will participate in any fund-raiser."

Noreen Gosch, whose son Johnny vanished Sept. 5, 1982, while on his Des Moines Sunday Register route in West Des Moines, wrote those words in her diary.

Janice Martin sits in her darkened apartment by a telephone, brown vial of tranquilizers by her elbow and a cup of coffee in her hand.

"I drink three or four pots a day," she says in a thin, brittle voice. "It doesn't bother me because I take my pills."

Since her son, Eugene, vanished three weeks ago, her life has been reduced to waiting by the phone and occasionally searching fields and ditches with teams of volunteers. "They let me go sometimes. But I was told that I shouldn't really come along, because if I was with them and they found something. . . .

"First you get scared, then hurt, then angry, then you blow a fuse, then you start all over again," she says. "My mind isn't there. I'm in and out."

Until Eugene vanished, she worked part-time, supporting three children.

"I'm a bartender. A lot of people say, 'Yup! See?' when they hear that," she says, describing the telephoned accusations that she had failed as a mother. "It isn't true, but it still hurts. I've had six or seven calls saying things like, 'If Gene had been home where he belongs, he'd be there today.' I didn't know how many strange people there were."

Martin recalls the Sunday Eugene disappeared. For her, the night before had been a late one at the Sunrise Tap, a fixture at East Forty-second Street and Easton Boulevard for as long as anyone can remember. She'd had to close the bar and did not get to sleep until 3 a.m.

Four hours later, the phone jangled her awake. It was her sister-in-law, Linda Martin, telling her Eugene had vanished while on his paper route. He had been staying at the south side home of his father, Don Martin, whom Martin had divorced two years before.

"It took a couple of seconds for it to connect," Martin says. "I knew he didn't run away. I talked to him that Tuesday. His birthday was coming up, and he told me he wanted a ghetto blaster like his brother's."

As the investigation ground into its third week, Martin says, "Everyone has their theories, but no cold, hard facts. I guess you could say there is no trace. I wonder where he is at, what he is doing, whether he is asking for me and his dad."

Two of Martin's uncles from Saylorville, Roger Blanchard and Bob Walker, drop by to check on Martin. They have been searching for Gene, sweating through weeds for hours, and they are bushed.

Walker, a likeable galumph of a man, plops onto a sofa. "Yup, every year the kooks come out of the wood-work, and them paperboys are easy targets that early in the morning."

At the Sunrise Tap, a Tupperware box full of collected money sits on the bar. A note taped to it reads: "Janice — You have our Prayers also our Love and Most of all our support. Your friends at Sunrise."

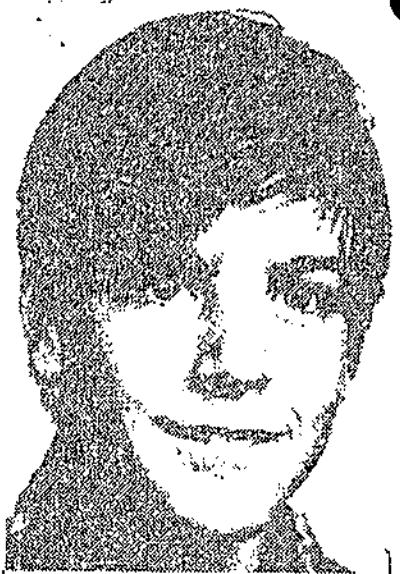
Everyone there is fiercely protective of Martin. Between serving Budweisers, owner Darlene McElwee shook her head: "It's awful hard to lose a child. But to lose one with no finality to it is something else. People go down the street looking both ways now. Johnny Gosch upset them. This one made them aware."

To a reporter, one bar patron says: "Hey. Don't write anything to hurt her, OK?"

More than 400 people sit in the spacious sanctuary of the First Assembly of God Church on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines for a terror-filled, two-hour-and-20-minute program on sexual abuse and murder of children.

One speaker, Bob Currie, had three children who were among many students allegedly molested by the owners and staff of the Virginia McMartin Pre-School in Manhattan Beach, Calif., a Los Angeles suburb.

Currie tells of watching a videotape in which a psychologist interviews Currie's son, now 8 years old, about the boy's experiences at the school. At



Eugene Martin  
Leads have dwindled



Johnny Gosch  
Nothing but dead ends



Corinne Perry  
Disappeared in Creston

the end of the interview, the child vents his rage by thrashing the puppets the psychologist has used as go-betweens for the questions and answers.

"It looked like an Alfred Hitchcock movie" — one in which his own son was the featured actor, Currie tells the crowd.

A film made by the Minnesota-based Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children opens with a news conference called by two officials of the North American Man/Boy Love Association. One of the lisping officials is saying that young boys and girls should be allowed to engage in sex acts without their parents' consent. It is, he says, a matter of "civil rights." He refuses to say how young is too young. The film ends with the heartbreaking funeral of Adam Walsh.

Adam was 6 years old when he was abducted from a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., shopping center in 1981. His head was found later in a canal. Many people are weeping when the movie ends. When the lights go on again, there is an appeal for money to help find Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin, and about \$1,000 is dropped in the blue bags the ushers have circulated through the pews.

The crowd's most enthusiastic applause is delivered for Noreen Gosch when she suggests reinstating the death penalty in Iowa for certain sexual offenses against children. "These pedophiles — their desires never die," she says.

The implication is clear: Even if their desires will not die, pedophiles — adults with a sexual attraction for children — will.

After the meeting, Denise Iles, 33, of Clive, explains why she came: "I have a 12-year-old son. The bottom line with me is, I'm scared. It's as simple as that."

At the regular Corinne Perry Support Group meeting in Creston, the mood is brisk and businesslike.

Since April 17, 1983, when Corinne Perry, 17, vanished after washing her clothes at the B. D. Highlander Laundromat, the group has brainstormed



Janice Martin  
"My mind isn't there..."

twice monthly in the basement of the First Congregational United Church of Christ about how to find her.

"Where are we on the fliers? Did we decide not to do the airports?" asks the Rev. Lyle Kuehl, the church pastor. He looks at the 13 people huddled around a folding table, then at Corinne's mother, Barbara. "Well, how many do we send to each airport?" she asks. "To Joplin we sent 10. How many to Kansas City? Denver?"

Don Perry, Corinne's father, scans the table, cluttered with posters and pamphlets about Corinne and with magazines about missing children.

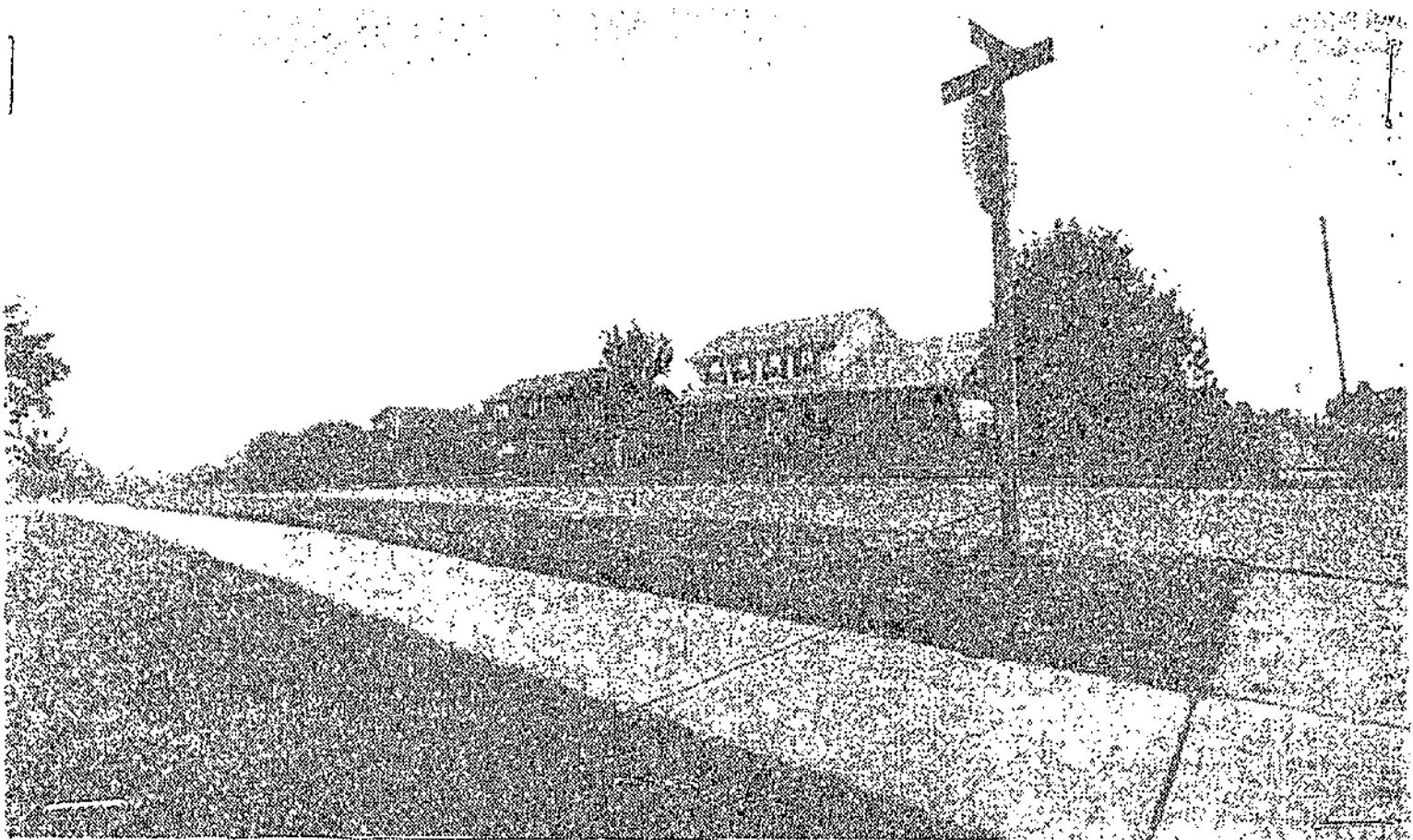
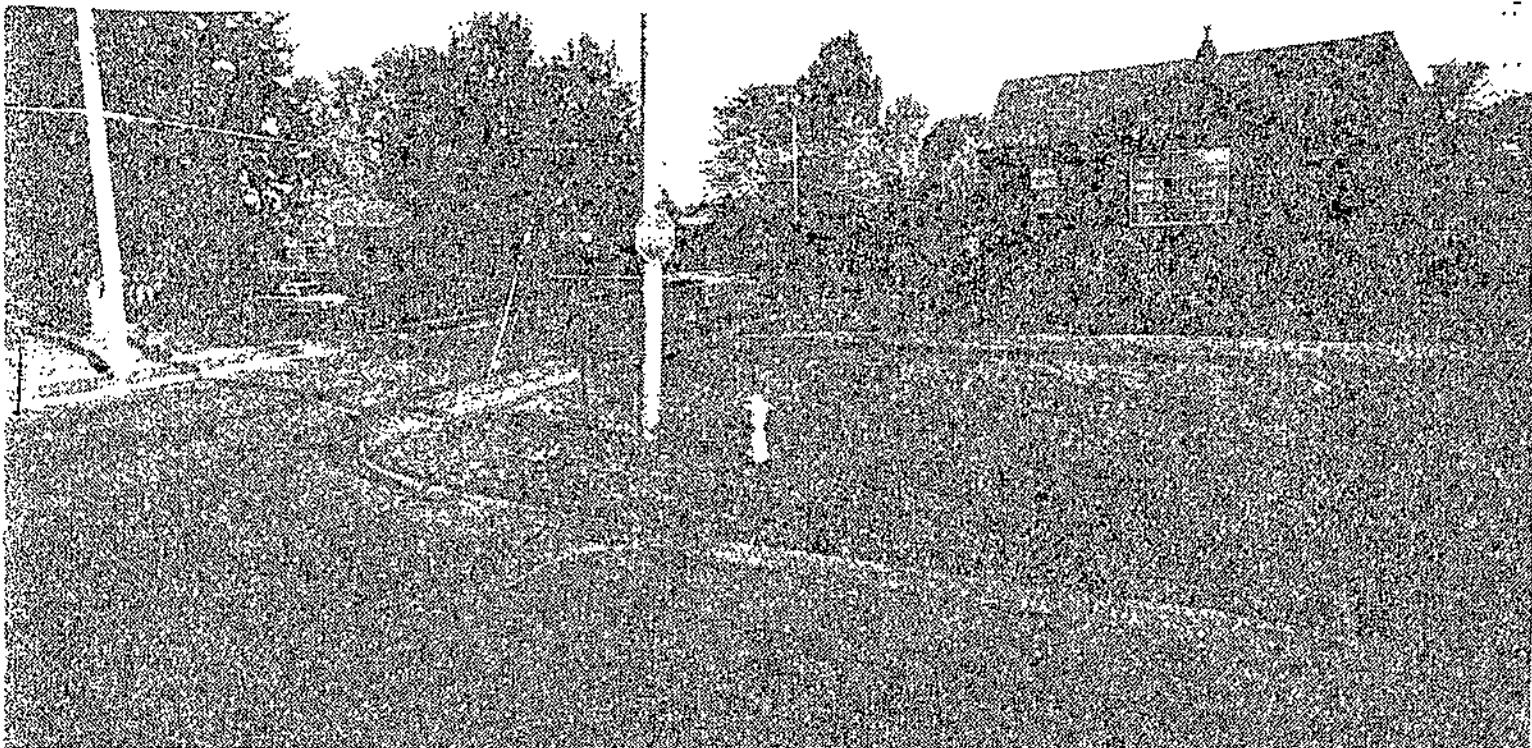
The Rev. Dolores Doench of nearby Cromwell gets an idea. She has recently married a couple in New York City, and the groom is a mechanic for a bus company. "Would it be advantageous to see if he knows about the ad rates for the posters in those buses?" she asks. Everyone nods.

Corinne Perry and the two paperboys are the only victims of possible abductions in the state who are not accounted for, officials say. And as in the other cases, friends and strangers have instinctively gathered around the grieving parents.

"I'd lose my mind without these people," Corinne's mother says.

Support groups bake hot dishes. They lick stamps and call congressmen. They plaster posters in truck stops on their vacations. They cry with the families.

But above all, support groups keep hope alive.



The ~~s~~ee corners where Eugene Martin, top, and Johnny Gosch, bottom, were last seen.

Corinne's sister, Letitia, 21, keeps a plain, spiral-ring notebook to record every personal event that would be of interest to Corinne. The most recent entry is, "Lloyd and Laura moved to Council Bluffs." Letitia says, "I put in births, deaths, divorces, anything she will need to know when she gets back."

Dennis Gregory Whelan, private detective, with offices on the ground floor of an apartment building on the west side of Omaha, Neb., worked on the Johnny Gosch case about eight months before giving it up in exhaustion and frustration.

Although he is no longer employed



Stanley Johnson  
Helped to search

by the boy's parents, a color photograph of Johnny is prominent on his office wall, along with smaller, black and white pictures of about 40 other children for whom Whelan has searched. Some were returned to their parents dead, some alive.

In Whelan's front office is a large United States map on which are pinned 62 small red flags, one for each reported sighting of Johnny. The markers span the map from Fargo, N.D., to McAllen, Texas, and from San Francisco, Calif., to Taunton, Mass.

Whelan is one of many investigators, private and official, who have been frustrated in their search for Johnny Gosch. They are well aware that they have so far failed in what they are paid to do.

"I think everyone would take it personally to a degree," says Lt. Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines Police Department, whose full-time assignment for nearly two years has been to find Johnny Gosch. McKinney started on the case Sept. 27, 1982, when he returned from a police-training school in Virginia."

"You, you're given a job to do, and you take pride in doing the job as well as you can and reaching some type of successful conclusion," says McKinney.

The Gosch case occupies four drawers in McKinney's filing cabinets. His carefully lettered notes fill a handful of battered, much-used notebooks. Thousands of tips and leads have come to nothing.

"I don't know where Johnny Gosch is," McKinney says. "I don't have any idea."

The Gosch case still brings five, six, seven calls a week from people wanting or offering information, McKinney says.

"One of the things that keeps me interested is that I have a boy that age who had a paper route at that time and was delivering papers on Ashworth [Road] that morning," says McKinney, who, unlike many other law officers, has retained the Gosches' respect.

Detective Whelan, who looks like he has been down a lot of roads in his 49 years, tells of many twists and turns in the Gosch investigation -- all leading to dead ends.

Nothing came of Whelan's importing of a young man, a homosexual, from Omaha to infiltrate Des Moines' homosexual community in hopes of a lead to Johnny's disappearance. Nothing came of Whelan's trip to New England to look through thousands of child-pornography pictures seized in a raid. Nothing came of the investigation of a Texas trucker who claimed to have picked up Johnny in West Des Moines and driven him as far west as Atlantic.

"If he is alive, he's not in the United States," Whelan says. "And now, with the second one [the disappearance of Eugene Martin], I'm not even sure he's alive."

Eugene Martin has been missing without a trace for six days when Stanley C. Johnson, a 63-year-old retired insurance salesman, drives up to a large cornfield south of Ankeny to help find him.

Johnson and about 35 others who had answered the Des Moines Police Department plea for volunteers fight their way through the dirty, dense rows of 7-foot-tall corn for several hours in the suffocating humidity, sharp corn leaves slapping their faces.

Their instructions were delivered at 8:30 a.m. by a bleary-eyed policeman, Richard Davis, who had been among the officers who went through part of the field from midnight until 3:30 the same morning, reportedly on the advice of a psychic.

Davis tells the volunteers they are looking for a shirt, blue jeans and size 8 tennis shoes the Martin boy was wearing when he disappeared, or for Martin's body. "If you find anything, don't touch it," Davis instructs. "Just stop and call for an officer. We don't want any evidence disturbed."

Stanley C. Johnson fumbled for words to explain why he had joined the search. For one thing, he regretted not having helped look for Johnny Gosch. "The fact that this has happened again makes you even more concerned," he says.

He adds: "We've been praying for them, but sometimes praying is not enough. We are God's hands and voice and feet. We need to pitch in sometimes. I'm not very good at expressing myself when it comes to something like this, but that's the way I feel."

The search is fruitless.

Two hundred and fifty miles away, Corbyn Jacobs, chief of the 16-member Palmyra, Mo., Volunteer Fire Department, requests missing-persons posters of the Martin and Gosch boys. Jacobs, 62, and the "other boys" on the fire department soon have plastered western Illinois and eastern Missouri with pictures of Martin and Gosch.

A few weeks before Eugene Martin disappeared, a Burlington Northern freight train went by Jacobs' house in Palmyra, a town of 3,644 residents. He had seen a young boy riding on a rail car with a dog. He called a Burlington Northern dispatcher about the boy and was told a railroad detective would get in touch right away.

"Nobody called me back about that lad," Jacobs says. "That's one of the things that touched me off about those Des Moines boys. Nobody seemed to care. That boy on the train had to belong to somebody, too. He had to be a good kid; he had his dog with him."

The 300 posters distributed by Jacobs and his volunteer firemen are among 148,000 that the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company ordered to fill requests. Thousands of additional posters were provided by other printers.

Noreen Gosch trembled as she inched her car down Forest Avenue past Thirteenth Street, peering through the dark for the fire hydrant where she was supposed to drop the \$20,000 ransom.

Beside her, in a paper bag, was a "ransom" of two pieces of wood. Crouched behind her in the back seat was her private detective, gun drawn. She thought of what it would be like get the severed hand of her son in the mail. Hours before, a deep voice on the telephone had threatened to arrange just that.

She pulled over, stepped in front of the headlights and threw the bag down. Several hours later, police officers returned the bag to the Gosches. No one had picked it up, and there was still no Johnny.

"I never was so scared in all my life," she said later, describing the false alarm that happened Oct. 13, 1982. She has since endured worse.

Like an angry mother grizzly, Noreen Gosch has snarled and snapped and fought. She and husband John have prodded, begged, offended, hustled, stepped on toes and frazzled nerves. They have endured insults, accusations and a procession of swooning psychics. They have been dogged and even outrageous. But no one can talk to the couple very long without realizing they would run naked down the MacVicar Freeway if it would help them find Johnny.

"We still walk by his bedroom every day," said the mother.

Noreen Gosch is a phenomenon. Des Moines parents who have never met her refer to "Noreen" in conversations. She and John have appeared on the "Today" show, changed Iowa's kidnapping laws and supervised distribution of tens of thousands of "Find Johnny Gosch" posters.

"Noreen should run for president," declared one woman in her neighborhood. "She gets things done."

[After the Sept. 5, 1982, disappearance, Noreen Gosch got some advice, she said: "A very wise man told me; 'Whatever you do, keep yourself under control. Make a plea for your son's life. But don't break down because if you do, they'll use your story maybe once or twice, and then it's done. You are in for a long search, and it's going to be up to you to keep the story going.'"]

That she has done. And parents whose children have vanished since Johnny acknowledge a debt to her: "There wouldn't be such a big deal about Eugene Martin if Noreen hadn't made such a stink," said a mother in a supermarket checkout line.

By maximizing exposure to the public, the Gosches have opened themselves to attack.

Noreen said that at one of many of her presentations, "The publisher of a small newspaper said, 'I don't think you ever had a son named Johnny. I think you are doing this for the money, the power and the glory.' I told him, 'I hope they get your kid next.' I don't have to take that. I am arrogant now."

Dallas Davis, neighbor and close friend, snapped: "Most of the comments I have heard from what I will call extremely ignorant people are things like 'Noreen appeared in full makeup,' or 'Noreen appeared on TV with her fingernails painted.' Who re-

MISSING

Please turn to Page 11

# FBI agent warns Martins of emotional roller coaster

**MISSING CHILDREN**

Continued from Page 6A

"ally gives a good goddamn?"

Betty Gipple, whose daughter now has Johnny Gosch's paper route, said: "People complained because [Noreen] didn't show enough emotion. Now people like her because she didn't give up. They respect her."

Fueling the continuing publicity is the tension between the Gosches and almost all of police-officialdom. No FBI agents or local policemen will comment on the case except in broad generalities, but they have said the charges of police incompetence are exaggerated or untrue.

Orval Cooney, the former West Des Moines police chief who initially handled the case, was tape-recorded without his knowledge by a TV crew. He said of the Gosches: "Yeah, I think they are ignorant. I think they are downright... stupid. Uh, but I'm not going to say that on tape, but you can tell them I said that."

The Gosches respond in kind. Noreen refers to him as "a sawed-off stupid idiot." John Gosch says, "We drive by his house every now and then to let him know we are still alive."

The Gosches' primary complaint is that police initially treated Johnny's disappearance as that of a runaway, despite a number of clues pointing to an abduction. Of the fast police reaction to Gene Martin's disappearance, Noreen says: "Now, all of a sudden, all of America is watching."

Des Moines is on the analysts couch, undergoing an examination by Dr. Donner Dewdney, a local child psychiatrist.

"There is a quality to the Midwest," he says. "It's all Our Neighborhood. But the average kid isn't 'average' any more in Des Moines. Parents aren't 'average' either."

Dewdney, a California-casual member of Child Psychiatry Associates, says the kidnappings reflect one of a child's deepest fears brought to life. And the resulting avalanche of warnings directed to children can hurt as well as help.

"I'd say to my 12-year-old son, 'Listen, Meathead. This is what happened. I have confidence in you. This is scary and we need to talk about it,' Dewdney says.

"But it's foolish to inundate 4- or 5-year-olds with all that. They'd only get a funny, weird, scared feeling. When their whole lives are in the process of developing on trust, it's hard on them.

"It is such a disconcerting thing to have happen. Kids around here hear over and over again, 'Don't talk to strangers. The enemy might be anywhere.' That kind of talk is bad for kids, and I'm against it. I am not going to help a child develop a notion of enemies."

He adds: "In fact, many parents feel bad because it reminds them they aren't doing the job on a day-to-day basis. They both work and just don't have time for the kids."

"Those 12-year-olds are saying, 'That could have been me.' They feel that they want to be independent, but underlying it now is the feeling that 'I'd better not leave home.' This scares a whole generation of 12-year-olds. It is screwing up a rite of passage."

Dewdney also talks about a phenomenon that always astounds grieving parents: accusations directed at them. "People blame the Gosches," he says. "It's like getting angry at someone for getting cancer. You think to yourself, 'They must have done something!'"

Although that is irrational, it is common. Anonymous callers have maligned Janice Martin's competence as a mother, and Noreen Gosch has been accused of killing her own son.

"Everyone is wondering what will happen, even what will happen to The Register, from using the boy carriers," said Joan Lose, mother of eight and a clerk at the Hy-Vee Food Store on Fleur Drive. "I can't imagine any mother letting her boy go out on a route alone now."

Like other newspapers, The Des Moines Register is a curious enterprise. About 300 full-time workers write it, edit it, sell ads for it and produce it. But whether it ever gets to its customers is up to 7,000 carriers, some boys and girls as young as 10.

The system was satisfactory for generations.

"Then all of a sudden in 1982 the

## Reward fund hits \$111,000

Pledges to a reward fund for information leading to the whereabouts of missing newspaper carriers Eugene Wade Martin or Johnny Gosch now total \$111,000.

Pledges of \$500 or more are being accepted by The Register's promotion department at (515) 284-8510.

Cash contributions of any amount may be sent to a reward fund set up by the Iowa PTA. These should be sent to Valley National Bank, P.O. Box 906, Des Moines, Ia., 50304. Checks should be payable to the Iowa PTA Eugene Martin-John Gosch Reward Fund.

Cash contributions for the search effort for Eugene Martin should be sent to Brenton National Bank of Des Moines, P.O. Box 891, Des Moines, Ia. 50304. Checks should be made payable to the Help Find Eugene Martin Fund.

Cash contributions on behalf of the search for Johnny Gosch should go to the Help Find Johnny Gosch Fund, P.O. Box 228, Ankeny, Ia. 50021.

rules of the game began to change," said John Miksich, who is in charge of The Register's distribution system. "You have one incident, then another incident. . . . Obviously it's going to weigh mightily on where we go from here."

Miksich and seven other top executives of the newspaper are meeting every other day to keep up with developments on the disappearance of Eugene Martin, to find additional ways to ensure the safety of carriers, and to determine if some fundamental change needs to be made in the carrier system.

"All questions are open — appropriately," said Publisher Gary Gerlach.

While Gerlach said he has received a handout of letters saying the job of a carrier is not safe for a young person, "Many adults view it as a very valuable experience for their kids."

Gerlach and his wife have no children. But if they did, he said, "I would have no hesitancy in sending my own child out on any route in Des Moines with proper supervision and proper training."

Although somewhere between 50 and 60 carriers quit because of Eugene Martin's disappearance, Gerlach said last winter's harsh weather caused more resignations.

James Gannon, editor of The Register, said carrying newspapers is a "reality American, traditional sort of a thing. So many people have done it as youths or have kids who do it or did it. It's kind of an introduction to the world of capitalism and work. ... There's a certain sort of Norman Rockwell Americana aspect to it all. It's the violation of that that makes people so angry."

Soon after Eugene Martin disappeared, Don and Sue Martin, his father and stepmother, were warned by an FBI agent of the roller coaster ride ahead: Their hopes would soar and crash, soar and crash.

Take last Monday. For the first time, the story of Gene's disappearance itself disappears from The Register, plunging the couple into despair. "It's been two weeks and you've already written him off," Sue Martin, 35, tells two Register reporters.

But evening brings an upper. The Des Moines City Council has voted to kick in \$25,000 to the reward fund for Gene and for Johnny Gosch. "We've got good news tonight," an excited Don Martin, 38, a wiry, much-tattooed man, exclaims. "This is going to make somebody pay attention."

The Martins sit in a swing on their front porch, talking in staccato above the roar of jet airplanes at the Des Moines Municipal Airport a few blocks west of their modest, one-story house.

Their lives have been turned upside down. Until Gene vanished, they never knew there were so many bad people and so many good people in the world. They are surprised at what they have learned about child pornography and children forced into prostitution. They are equally surprised at the outpouring of help and support they have received.

The morning of Gene's disappearance, the street in front of their house filled with police cars "boom — just like that," Don says. A neighbor across the street arranged for the immediate printing of a poster with Gene's picture and description, and the fliers were tacked up at the airport, in grocery stores and gas stations less than five hours after the disappearance. A Des Moines printer whose name they don't even know has provided thousands of additional posters.

John and Noreen Gosch have been especially helpful. "They know what we're going through now," says Don. "They know what we're going to go through."

The Martins lock their doors and windows as never before. Sue's 16-year-old son, who used to roam late at night, is now under orders to be in the house by 10 p.m. Don says: "When I get Gene home, no way he'll even walk up to the store without an armed guard. I do mean that — a shotgun, a ball bat, whatever it takes."

The Martins seem to be holding up under the strain pretty well. But, Don says, "There have been times I walk by Gene's bedroom and I just crack up."

The leads that flooded police headquarters at first have dwindled to a trickle. Speaking of that roller coaster ride, Don frowns and says, "The hills are starting to get smaller already."

Just before dawn, all is still on Johnny Gosch's former newspaper route.

The silent condos and split-level houses, with bushes tucked protective-ly close, line curving streets and wide cul-de-sacs. The only movement is the drowsy realignment of clouds, slowly circling to the east around what is not yet a sunrise. Suburbia at rest.

Nine bundles of newspapers wait in the ivory glow of a street light on the corner of Forty-second Street and Francrest Circle. Truck 5625 has

## Gosch sighting called false alarm

WINTERSET, IA. (AP) — Law officers in south-central Iowa thought Saturday afternoon that they had picked up the trail of missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch. But by early evening, Madison County sheriff's deputies were calling the reported sighting a false alarm.

The search began about 2 p.m. after Winterset Police Chief Ken Billeter said a credible source told him she had seen Gosch in a Winterset grocery store and later in a blue car with Ohio license plates. Winterset authorities, all available state troopers and state conservation officers searched for the car. A patrol plane also was called in.

dropped them off sometime in the night.

Headlights glide up to the bundles. Ann Crowell is checking one of the 24 Register routes she is responsible for. Her job has changed drastically since Johnny's abduction on this street two years ago. The number of routes each district manager handles has been trimmed, so they drop by each one more often. She now carries an identification badge, always visible. There is a wariness that was not there before, more managers' meetings, more rules for reporting a wide range of incidents.

From a house a newspaper's toss away emerge most of the Gipple family. Julie, 13, a mile runner on the Sacred Heart School track team, lurches groggily to the corner as mother, Betty, drives the family Mercury up. Jamie, 10, dashes up a minute later in his stocking feet. "I thought my shoes were in the car," he mutters, then races back to the house.

The bundles are heaved into the trunk. Back on the Gipples' driveway, Jamie hits the bundle wires with the snippers. Eighty-nine newspapers are to be put into two Radio Flyer wagons, and there are 41 in one so far.

"What's 41 from 89?" quizzes Gipple. "Mom, it's six in the morning," groans Julie.

Turning onto Marcourt Lane, Julie splits up from Jamie and their mother, doing the opposite side of the street. Waving toward a particular patch of sidewalk, Julie says casually, "That's where Johnny Gosch disappeared."

A pancake-sized rust stain marks the spot, as if the boy had evaporated and left only a residue.

"I was kinda scared" about taking Johnny's route, she says. "What scared me the most was when all the police came around here before, who were searching our yard and everything."

But her mother has forbidden her to do the route alone, and she is never out of earshot.

She delivers to the Gosch house. "They always warn me not even to do my collecting alone. They say there are a lot of weirdos out there."

She pulls the wagon over lawns, curbs and sidewalks, past houses too new to be occupied. The papers make loud swishes as they slide onto porches.

Julie was not a newspaper carrier when Gosch was abducted, but she was when Martin disappeared. "I wasn't as shocked this time. It wasn't as close to our neighborhood," she says.

The sun comes up. The sky is flecked with pollywog-shaped clouds. A German shepherd barks loudly at the front door of a house as Julie trudges past, then dashes to a rear window for more barking.

The route is done at 7:15. Not a sin-



Dennis Whelan  
*Former Gosch investigator*  
gle moving vehicle was seen and no  
strangers. Time for breakfast.

"They feel safe in this neighborhood," Julie's mother says at the kitchen table. "If it was unsafe, I guess we'd all move." But it's still worth a few hours of lost morning sleep to her to walk with them. Just in case.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# List of all missing children in Iowa may be made public

By ANNE CAROTHERS-KAY

Register Staff Writer

A Polk County District Court judge will decide later this month whether a list of all the missing children in Iowa should be made public.

A petition filed Tuesday on behalf of the Iowa Department of Public Safety asks Judge Joel D. Novak to determine whether the department may release a computer list of missing children to The Des Moines Register.

In withholding the list, the department cites a state law that prohibits any criminal justice agency from releasing or disclosing any of its records concerning children under 18 years of age.

"The question is how literally to construe that," said Assistant Attorney General Gary Hayward, who filed the petition.

The Register on Aug. 30 asked the Department of Public Safety for a list of the 350 to 375 missing persons recorded in the department's statewide crime computer. Police and sheriff's departments across the state use the computer to trade information on wanted persons, stolen property and missing persons.

Joe Thornton, lawyer for the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company, said the newspaper will argue at a Sept. 28 hearing that "the court has the power to release the information even though it may appear confidential at first blush."

Hayward said the public safety department will not oppose that argument. "The department is trying, in all good faith, to make a decision as to what the law requires us to do. We understand there is a public interest in protecting privacy and a public interest in finding missing children," he said.

However, the petition does oppose releasing all the computer information on missing persons, noting that "many of the entries concerning missing persons in the [computer] system include remarks which go beyond the immediate facts and circum-

stances of particular disappearances, or information which, if revealed, could threaten the safety of an individual or the integrity of an investigation."

The department also notes that the list includes runaways from state institutions and argues that Department of Human Services records are confidential.

The department seeks a closed hearing before the judge to present the computer list and determine whether it should be made public.

## Reward fund now \$118,000

A \$1,000 pledge Tuesday from The Farmers Insurance Group has boosted the fund for two missing newsboys to \$118,000.

The money will be paid to anyone who has information on the whereabouts of Eugene Martin, 14, who disappeared Aug. 12, or Johnny Gosch, who vanished Sept. 5, 1982, when he was 12. The youngsters were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register in residential neighborhoods seven miles apart.

Despite a month-long investigation, police have been unable to link the apparent kidnappings and have made no arrests.

Not included in the reward money is \$25,000 pledged by the city of Des Moines for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible. The city of West Des Moines said it will pay \$5,000 for information that leads to an arrest and a conviction in the Gosch case and an equal amount in the Martin case.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 5M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 9/12/84

Edition Morning

UNSUB;

Title EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID COSCH - VICTIM;

Character KIDNAPING

or Classification: 7-1145 &amp; 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing

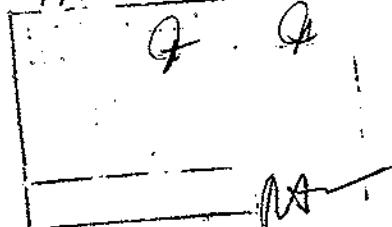
## Gosch, Martin photos on T-shirts

Kathryn Clark of the Shirt Shoppe in Newton is selling printed T-shirts with pictures of missing newspaper carriers Johnny Gosch and Eugene Wade Martin and a telephone number to call with any information about the two.

In addition, Clark said that for each \$8 shirt sold, \$2.50 will go to funds established to aid in the effort to find the youths. The money will not be added to the reward fund offered for information leading to the youths.

The shirts will be given to participants in a fund-raising fun run in Des Moines and will be sold by Gosch's mother, Noreen, after speaking engagements.

7A-1053 Sub A-211



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# D.C. man is subpoenaed in Gosch case

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A Washington, D.C.-area man who says he searches for missing children has been ordered to tell a federal grand jury in Des Moines what he knows about missing newspaper carriers Eugene Martin and Johnny Gosch.

Paul Bishop, 25, who describes himself as a "former street kid," has been subpoenaed to appear Tuesday. He apparently will be asked to discuss statements tied to him alleging that Gosch is being held by child pornographers.

U.S. Attorney Richard Turner wouldn't confirm or deny whether a grand jury is interested in the cases and declined to comment.

Noreen Gosch, Johnny's mother, says Bishop has been an unpaid volunteer in the search for her son. She said that she and Bishop are "baffled" by the order.

"We've been told by various sources that law enforcement basically doesn't have much to go on and they're trying to find out if we've got anything going," she said.

## Frequent Contacts

Bishop, who lives in Springfield, Va., and has made frequent contacts with Noreen and John Gosch, wasn't available for comment Friday. A phone number he gave to Washington authorities was answered by a man who said he didn't know Bishop. Asked if Bishop lived at the Washington number, the man said "I don't think so." He said he was standing in a phone booth and had picked up the receiver because he heard the phone ringing.

The subpoena could force Bishop to explain under oath statements that Gosch was abducted for pornography and was being held captive along with Martin.

Martin, 14, disappeared Aug. 12, and Gosch vanished Sept. 3, 1982, when he was 12. The two were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register but police have been unable to connect the disappearances.

Sue Martin, Eugene's stepmother, said Bishop "got us excited and said he knew the boys were alive" in the Southwest. But she said the contact with him "fizzled" and the family no longer is in touch with him. "I didn't like him," she said.

About two weeks ago, according to an investigator, Bishop was interviewed by two FBI agents near his home.

## "Renegade Group"

Described in an April 18 Washington Times story as head of a "self-proclaimed renegade group" known as KIDS, an acronym for Kids in Distress Services, Bishop recently helped find two East Coast 15-year-old runaways in Little Rock, Ark., after a week-long disappearance, the Times said.

Gosch said Bishop first contacted her in February and was one "of a lot of people who offered assistance," including private investigators in Rhode Island, Missouri, New Mexico and California.

"Most of them called after seeing national publicity on Johnny and wanted to help," she said.

Among the investigators, she said, is Sam J. Soda of Des Moines. Soda said that he hadn't been subpoenaed and that he knew nothing of a grand jury investigation. Gosch said she knew of no other subpoenas.

Bishop, the Gosches say in a reference letter circulated by him, has given "the only straight answers to questions we have had during this painful search." The Gosches say he has been "straightforward and honest about the possibilities in our case."

"Mr. Bishop has connections which could make the difference in our son's life," the letter said.

In an interview Friday, Gosch said that a pattern has emerged from a number of sightings across the country to indicate that her son is alive. She said the descriptions are "always identical" and resemble her son.

"We've never been fortunate to be on the spot when they see the boy. By the time we get a man there we can only put pieces together," she said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 10A

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 9/8/84

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;

Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;

UNSUB;

EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053 &amp; 7-1145

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

## Newsboy sighting reported in S.D.

Law enforcement agencies Friday were checking reports from two women in Sioux Falls, S.D., who said they may have seen one of two missing Iowa newspaper delivery boys.

Authorities in the South Dakota-Minnesota-Iowa area were alerted to the report that the women may have seen Eugene Martin, 14, who disappeared Aug. 12. The other youth, Johnny Gosch, 12 at the time, disappeared in September 1982. Both were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register at the time.

The women told authorities they saw a boy with a man in a car bearing California license plates. Sgt. Bill Millins of the Des Moines Police Department said the department has received more than 600 leads in the case and that a followup will be made on the Sioux Falls report.

A reward fund of more than \$12,000 has been raised in Des Moines for anyone who can provide information that will lead to finding the boys.

7A-1053-DubA-212

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

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# Missing sons unite Martin, Gosch families

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A common loss — the tragic, mysterious disappearance of a son — has brought two Des Moines families together in a common cause.

From now on, John and Noreen Gosch and Donald and Sue Martin will share money, chart a battle plan and shoulder together the weight of finding their sons. Both Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin apparently were kidnapped while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, and both would now be 14.

The families will divide the money and the work involved in garage sales, rummage sales, dances, foot races and other efforts. Saturday, they'll jointly sponsor a 10-kilometer run and a two-mile run to begin at 8 a.m. at Valley High School in West Des Moines.

They will speak out for each other and distribute thousands of posters with the pictures of their missing boys side-by-side.

Twice a month, when a dozen volunteers who've been looking for Johnny Gosch for two years meet at the Gosch home, the Martins will join in.

Regularly on Saturdays for now, they'll sit down together with investigators to compare notes, to tap into the investigation's progress and to make suggestions.

"What each of us is doing," says Noreen Gosch, whose son vanished Sept. 5, 1982, "is very relevant to the other."

What the Gosches have learned, she says, may help in finding Gene Martin, who vanished Aug. 12.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3B

The Des Moines Sunday Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 9/16/84

Edition Morning

UNSUB;

EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM

Title

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character KIDNAPING

or 7-1145 &amp; 7-1053

Classification

Submitting Office OMAHA

Indexing:

7A-1053 Sub A-213

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

"We've been through those early days. Every time a psychic calls or somebody comes to the door with what looks like a good clue you just go check it out any time of the day or night. You get out of bed and do it," Noreen Gosch said.

"We've been there. The frustrations, the ups and down feelings, the psychics who say they know something, the false hopes. We want to help [the Martins]."

The alliance brings together two families who've had little in common: The Gosches from an upper-middle-income background in West Des Moines, the Martins from a neighborhood of modest homes on Des Moines' south side.

"We have a great respect for her and what she has done," Sue Martin says. "She has really been a big help to us."

"There has been a feeling of camaraderie," Noreen Gosch says.

Meanwhile, the search for Martin, now entering its sixth week, has failed to turn up any information that would reveal what happened to him. Despite hundreds of calls on a police hotline, many of which came during the early days of the investigation, police have been unable to say if the youngster is dead or alive.

Although there are many similarities in the Gosch and Martin cases, police say they have been unable to link them.



DONALD  
MARTIN



SUE  
MARTIN



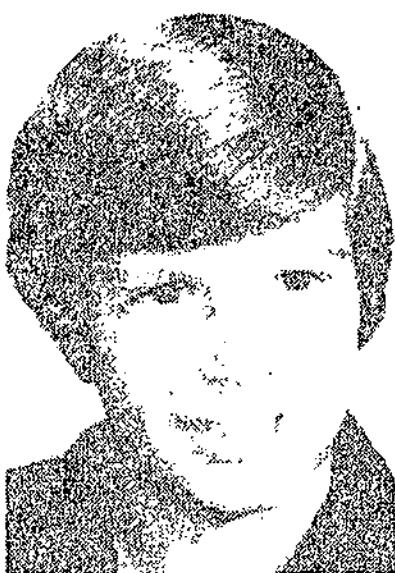
JOHN  
GOSCH



NOREEN  
GOSCH



Eugene Martin



Johnny Gosch

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 1A

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 9/15/84

Edition Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
Character: KIDNAPING

or  
Classification: 7-1145 & 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

REGISTER PHOTO BY BOB NANDELL



1053 Sub A 218

## Cross-country eye-catcher

Trucker Frank Sloan of Des Moines awaits finishing touches on lettering of his rolling notice of the search and rewards for two missing newspaper delivery boys. Nor-

walk sign painter Randy Kent's portraits on the 45-foot semi-trailer are headed for regular hauls to 18 California cities where Sloan delivers windows made in Pella.

JM

# FBI agent fears abductions of boys may be 'Gacy-type'

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

An FBI special agent told Cedar Rapids Rotarians recently that investigators fear a mass killer like John Wayne Gacy may be involved in the baffling disappearances of two Des Moines newspaper carriers.

  
**HERB HAWKINS** said Tuesday that in a questioning session following his speech, he said that a Gacy copy cat was only one possibility.

"You have to understand the entire question," Hawkins said from his Omaha office. "The question was asked if it's conceivable that an individual would take children such as Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin and hold them in captivity for two years like in the Gosch case."

"My response was that it certainly was possible in this type of investigation. Nothing is outside the realm of possibilities, which is common sense."

Hawkins said that he then spoke of Gacy and he said "that one of the fears, of course, is that we have a John Wayne Gacy type of situation."

Gacy, who was convicted in March 1980 of the sex-related Chicago area slayings of 33 young men and boys, is under a sentence of death in Illinois. He once served 18 months in prison after being convicted in Waterloo of the sodomy of a teen-age boy.

"The other fears are, I said, that we have an individual who would have the propensity to be a closet pedophile, or that there is someone who has no arrest record and there is little to go on," Hawkins said.

One Rotarian, however, who was among the 300 club members at Stouffers Five Seasons Hotel, said the FBI agent told the group, "We may have a pedophile on our hands, but what we really think we have, and what we're really concerned about, is that we have another John Wayne Gacy."

The club member, who requested anonymity, added, "He left an impression with me that they were thinking the boys were dead. He said, '... see how somebody could keep them

spirited away from the public for two years. So what conclusion do you draw from that?" Martin, 14, disappeared Aug. 12 while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register in a southside neighborhood. Gosch, who would be 14 now, has been gone since Sept. 5, 1982, when he was delivering the Sunday newspaper in West Des Moines.

Hawkins' comments to the Rotarians appeared to go beyond official statements that have come from the joint investigation by the FBI, the state Division of Criminal Investigation and Des Moines police. There has been broad public speculation about what might have happened to the youngsters. While acknowledging that a number of theories have been explored, investigators have declined to say publicly what those theories are, adding that they wouldn't speculate.

Hawkins said that before answering questions he asked the Rotarians if there were reporters in the room. According to some who were at the meeting, no hands were raised.

"I always do that," Hawkins said.

According to others at the meeting, Hawkins said agents gave polygraph tests to a "number of sickos" but "they just weren't getting anywhere."

Noreen Gosch earlier this year contrasted the case of her son and that of the 1983 kidnapping of teen-ager F.A. "Chip" Wittern, who was found within hours.

When confronted with the accusation, she said Hawkins told her, "Well, Mrs. Gosch, that [Wittern] boy is worth more money than your son." The FBI later said that "nothing that Mr. Hawkins told Mr. and Mrs. Gosch could even remotely be interpreted" as saying that.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3M  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Date 9/26/84  
Edition Morning

Title UNSUB;  
EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
Character KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification 7-1145 & 7-1053  
Submitting Office OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053 Sub A-219

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b7C



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# New, old clues baffle Gesch-Martin officials

By FRANK SANTIAGO  
Register Staff Writer

In a case already both mysterious and macabre, that of the two missing Des Moines paper carriers, another set of odd, inexplicable coincidences has started investigators.

The developments may be among the most mysterious and macabre yet: freshly dug earth in an isolated woods and a powerful, noxious smell of dead flesh, both reported to authorities two years ago but not investigated until this month; a map mailed anonymously from California last month with an arrow pointing to that same spot in the woods.

Investigators don't know what to make of the facts — whether they're related to the disappearances of Johnny Gosch in September 1982 and Eugene Martin last August — or whether they mean nothing at all.

It began on a chilly and wet day in late September two years ago, just days after Gosch vanished on Sept. 5, 1982, after leaving home to deliver his Des Moines Sunday Register route. Eldon Boone Jr. of Madrid was squirrel hunting when he came upon what he says looked like a grave in heavy brush.

"The ground was disturbed about 5 or 6 feet long and 2½ feet wide under some saplings. Good Lord, did it stink," he recalls. "The smell made you sick. It stopped me dead and I had to hold my breath and run past it. I'll never forget that smell," he said.

His hunting companion, Mark Shannon, also of Madrid, had gone another way and didn't see the site, but he smelled it. "The place smelled like something big was dead," he said.

Whatever it was that Boone and Shannon smelled so powerfully then has never been uncovered, at least not that they or any officials know of.

Boone said he told a friend what happened on that lonely path of Corps of Engineers land a mile west of Madrid and that the friend reported it to Madrid police. But there was no investigation, until this year when more than a score of lawmen and volunteers returned to the area and dug in the area for three days.

The search was begun Sept. 6 after a friend of Boone's phoned Des Moines police about the 2-year-old incident. Interest was renewed after the disappearance of Martin. Both boys apparently were snatched from their newspaper routes. No trace of either has been found and law officers don't know whether they are dead or alive.



LEE STRUBLE      ELDON BOONE

The search turned up nothing. Boone, who accompanied the searchers, couldn't locate the apparent gravesite he had seen two years before.

The mystery goes even deeper, however.

Not long after Martin disappeared, The Register received anonymously a clipping of an Aug. 20 article about the missing boys. The clipping was from the Pasadena, Calif., Star-News. With it was part of an Iowa road map. A hand-drawn arrow on the map pointed to a dot that corresponded to the secluded land where Boone and Shannon had hunted.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3B  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 9/30/84  
Edition Morning

UNSUB;  
Title: EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

UNSUB;  
Character KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1145 & 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

The envelope was postmarked Aug. 25 from Industry, Calif., which is in Los Angeles County. The Register gave the envelope and contents to investigators.

The map intrigues some officers, who wonder if it could be a message from a troubled killer. On the other hand, they say, it might be merely a hint from someone who knew of Boone's experience and wanted police to pursue it.

Boone says he doesn't know anyone in California nor of any way his story might have reached there.

For the moment, the map has been added to the mountain of paperwork a team of FBI agents, state Division of Criminal Investigation agents and Des Moines police have assembled in the bewildering cases.

Dallas County Sheriff Lee Struble, who led the recent search of the hunting site, says it's unlikely there will be more digging. To do a thorough search, he says, would require a costly combination of manpower and machines.

As Boone recalls the 2-year-old incident:

"Mark Shannon went one way and I went the other. It started clouding up and started to rain, a real light rain. I walked back up this lane from where we were parked and got to [REDACTED] spot. It stunk like a son-of-a-gun. *[Signature]*

*Dub-A-230  
7-1053*



The mysterious anonymous map and the envelope it arrived in.

could see the ground was disturbed there. The smell just made you sick.

"As we were leaving in the truck, I told Mark to roll down the window and take a whiff. He did and burned rubber getting out of there. He said, 'What the hell are you trying to do? What is that bad smell?'"

Boone related the story to a friend in Madrid and asked him to pass it on to local police. Boone said he was unable to do it himself because he was leaving on a fishing trip.

When he returned, he said, the friend told him he had gone to the police and they told him someone probably had buried a large dog or a deer.

"I said they went to a lot of trouble to bury a dog out there and under some trees, too," Boone said. He said he then forgot about the incident.

Madrid Police Chief Mike Ferjak said a report was made to Madrid police but he wasn't on the force at the

time. He said he had heard that the matter was turned over to Boone County Sheriff Henry N. Wallace. But Wallace said there was no report from Madrid and he hadn't heard about the incident until it was recently phoned to the Des Moines hotline.

"I wish I had done more with it," Boone said. "There was something out there. I could have been a help."

Sheriff Struble says the smell might have come from the remains of a deer buried by poachers to avoid detection. The area teems with deer.

He says the map sent anonymously from a California probably isn't the work of a psychic, because "they would likely have identified themselves."

"But who could it be?" he asks, then shrugs, "I don't know. Maybe it's someone who knows Eldon or about what happened to him and is out there in California. Then maybe it's someone who knows something and is trying to tell us."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page: 14  
 Omaha World Herald  
 Date: 10/22/84  
 Edition: Morning Edition

Title: Missing Iowa Boy's Parents Checking Child-Sex Case

Character:  
 or 7-1053  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:

# Missing Iowa Boy's Parents Checking Child-Sex Case

St. Paul, Minn. (UPI) — There may be more truth to reports that a group of child abusers killed a teen-age boy than many people realize, the father of missing West Des Moines, Iowa, newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch said Saturday.

Prosecutors investigating suspected cases of sexual abuse in Jordan, Minn., recently dismissed charges against 22 adults because they said they wanted to prevent further trauma to children. It has since been revealed that three children said they were forced by adults to help kill and dismember a boy in August 1983.

Johnny Gosch vanished Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering newspapers.

"Judging from some of the things we've seen, there may be more truth than most people realize," his father said. "The (children who told the stories) have not been together for a long time but their stories are very similar. These things do happen."

## Jordan Case

Gosch said he and his wife, Noreen, were in Minnesota to meet with Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III Friday about the Jordan case.

The case had been conducted by Scott County Attorney Kathleen Morris, but she has turned it over to state officials.

Humphrey has pledged to contact the Gosches as the investigation progresses "anytime he has a hint of something," Gosch said. The Gosches also met with officials from the American Society to Prevent Cruelty to Children to discuss legislative matters.

"We also talked to Mr. Humphrey about a legislative package on child abuse for Minnesota," Gosch said.

"I'm very impressed with their thoroughness and that they have accepted some of our ideas. I'm sure we'll see some sort of package passed. Some people talking about it want an automatic jail sentence, with no chance for a plea bargain, when a child is molested," he said.

## Keeping in Touch

Authorities in Iowa also are keeping an eye on the investigation.

"We have made a request through the FBI in Minnesota to work with prosecutors to get as much information as we can if there is any possible Johnny Gosch involvement in that case," FBI agent Robert Keane said.

The West Des Moines Police Department has been in contact with Minnesota officials but is allowing the FBI to take the lead in the case, Lt. Lyle McKinney said.

McKinney and Keane said there have been no new leads in the Gosch case.

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7-1053 A - 232

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>no</i>	FILED <i>no</i>
OCT 24 1984	
FBI - OMAHA	
FBI/DOJ	

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page A-15  
 Waterloo Courier  
 Waterloo, Iowa  
 Date: 9/4/84  
 Edition:

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7-1053A  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# 'Long, awful day' will mark Gosech disappearance

WEST DES MOINES (AP) — Wednesday, Sept. 5, will be a long day in the longest two years of Noreen and John Gosch's lives.

It will have been two years ago that the couple's son, Johnny, left their home in this quiet, Des Moines suburb to deliver his Sunday newspaper route. He hasn't been seen since.

"Wednesday's going to be a ter-

rible day ... a long, awful day," Noreen Gosch said in an interview. "You always remember, but on Sept. 5, it hurts a little more."

Mrs. Gosch said she resigned herself long ago to the fact that the search will be a long one. But there is some hope and the Goseches have had enough reported sightings that they are convinced he's still alive.

*"It was an atrocity that they didn't look for Johnny Gosch like they did for Gene Martin. At least the Martins didn't have to go through what we did, at least they didn't have the added burden of fighting the system."*

rible day ... a long, awful day," Noreen Gosch said in an interview. "You always remember, but on Sept. 5, it hurts a little more."

There's been a lot of hurt for the Goseches in those two years, but not enough to stop them from doing everything in their power to find their son. The effort started with selling candy bars and buttons on Des Moines street corners, and it has progressed to appearances on national television, testifying before congressional committees in Washington and becoming part of a national effort to educate people about missing children.

Mrs. Gosch said most the people who report seeing Johnny say he has long hair, walks with a limp, has slurred speech and is now almost 6 feet tall. When they have a sighting, a private detective goes to the area to search. So far, the closest he's come is within four days of the boy — and a man who is with him all the time.

"It's good on the one hand because we know he's alive," Mrs. Gosch said. "But it's frustrating because we can't be there at the same time. Someday, we will be."

The Goseches believe their son was taken as part of a national, organized child pornography ring. Experts in the field have told her "stringers"

7-1053A-233

PA

are sent to get young children for pedophiles — people who have sex with children.

"WE'VE BEEN told these creeps get \$12,000 to \$20,000 dollars a head, depending on how satisfactory the children are," Mrs. Gosch said. "Hey, the risks are pretty high if they get caught, so the pay has to be good."

To find Johnny, the Gosches have hired private investigators, sent his poster throughout the nation, held numerous fund-raising activities and given speeches across the state.

While the publicity is necessary to their cause, it also can be a burden. The Gosches have been criticized and often scrutinized for their efforts, but it doesn't matter to them.

In an earlier interview, Gosch said he and his wife wouldn't stop looking for their son "until our bones are dust and we can't move."

The search took on extra incentive in August when another Des Moines newsboy disappeared, under circumstances eerily similar to the Gosch case.

Eugene Wade Martin, 14, was preparing to deliver his Des Moines Sunday Register route Aug. 12. He had gone to a corner to pick up his papers. Witnesses saw a man talking to Eugene. Despite massive searches, hefty reward funds totaling more than \$100,000 and quick police response, there are no solid leads in Martin's case.

IT WAS ALMOST a carbon copy of Johnny Gosch's disappearance. He also went to a street corner to pick up his papers. Witnesses saw him talking to a man who seemed drunk or high, and suddenly Johnny was gone.

The major difference in the cases, said Mrs. Gosch, was the way police and the public immediately responded to Martin's disappearance. She and her husband have been critical of several people, especially law enforcement officers, for not searching for their son and for refusing to initially treat the case as an abduction.

"It was an atrocity that they didn't



AP Laserphoto

John and Noreen Gosch have spent two years looking for their son Johnny, who disappeared while preparing to deliver his newspaper route on Sept. 5, 1982.

look for Johnny Gosch like they did for Gene Martin," Mrs. Gosch said. "At least the Martins didn't have to go through what we did, at least they didn't have the added burden of fighting the system."

Part of the reason Martin's case got quick attention was a law passed this year by Iowa lawmakers that made it mandatory for police to begin searching for missing persons

say they are continuing their search for Gosch, despite his parents' public criticism.

"We absolutely are still involved in that case," said FBI agent John Evans. "Whenever we receive any information, it's covered. We are doing everything humanly possible to get that child returned to his parents."

Both Evans and Sgt. Lyle McKin-

*"If no one gets upset, nothing gets done, does it? Anger can eat you up if you direct it inward, so you have to channel it outside. I don't care anymore if that upsets people."*

as soon as they are reported. The bill, dubbed the "Johnny Gosch bill," was pushed by the Gosches because they said police didn't start looking for their son until 72 hours had passed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT officials

ney of the West Des Moines Police Department said they work on the assumption that Johnny is alive.

"I can't afford the luxury of theories about whether he's alive or dead," McKinney said. "We're still working on it. Obviously, the tips

have slowed down, but we still get information from all over and we check on it."

Both men refused to comment on the Gosches' public criticism of their efforts. Both said they wished they had more positive information.

Authorities have not officially linked the two boys' cases, but the public has. The two boys were both subjects of intense searches shortly after Martin's disappearance.

Mrs. Gosch said she is torn between being grateful for the help being offered now and being angry that it didn't come sooner. Mostly, she's angry.

"YOU BET I'm angry, I'm as angry as hell," Mrs. Gosch said. "Some people helped us, but a large

percentage of the people in Des Moines condemned us. We faced a lot of narrow-mindedness and apathy in this town. It left a bad taste in my mouth."

The Gosches were helped by a volunteer group that still meets biweekly to plan fund-raisers and to spread the word about child abuse and missing children. Dallas Davis, a volunteer, neighbor and close friend of the Gosches, shares the family's anger over its treatment.

"Noreen Gosch has been force-feeding this state for two years about missing children," Davis said. "But people still sit on their families, they still won't believe their children are in trouble."

"If no one gets upset, nothing gets done, does it? Anger can eat you up if you direct it inward, so you have to channel it outside," Mrs. Gosch said. "I don't care anymore if that upsets people."

THE FAMILY, including the couple's other two children, have had to be strong. Johnny's older brother and sister are gone from home, but they have not escaped the ordeal.

"They are angry too, and frightened that this kind of thing can happen and people can react so cruelly," Mrs. Gosch said.

Her daughter was the object of some of the unkindness that has been directed toward the Gosch family. When she was selling candy to help raise money for the detectives, a woman came up to her and spat on

her, saying "Your mother is disgusting and I wouldn't do anything to help her."

Another man stood up at the end of

one of Mrs. Gosch's speeches and told her he thought she didn't have a son named Johnny and had made the

whole thing up for the fame.

"I told him I hoped the next child

taken was his," she said. It was the

only time she lost her cool in public.

"People with that kind of cruelty should feel the pain we've felt. You can attack me, but don't put a mark on my son's name. I'll come after you then. You know what mother lions do to protect their cubs," she said.

"PEOPLE DON'T know the crap the Gosches have put up with," Davis said. "I don't know how some people

*"Wednesday's going to be a terrible day ... a long, awful day. You always remember, but on Sept. 5, it hurts a little more."*

can sleep at night with the attitude they have toward someone who is obviously suffering so much."

Mrs. Gosch told of how she has had people watch her while she shopped for groceries, and say things like "what's she doing buying avocados when her boy is missing?"

"The reason I make so many people angry is that I didn't fold up like they expected me to," Mrs. Gosch said. "I still wear makeup, I still paint my fingernails, I go to work every day. I have taken the mortar shots. I've climbed off the cross. I want my son back."

But the stress has taken its toll. Though she doesn't hold "pity parties," Mrs. Gosch said she and her husband sometimes "are so tired we feel we can't move another inch." And sometimes she still can't believe it's all happening.

"Sometimes in the middle of the night I'll wake up and think it's all been a nightmare and I'll go down to Johnny's room. Then I open the door and he's not there and I remember."

Mrs. Gosch said she and her husband have discussed what will happen if and when they find their son.

"WE WILL have to be very strong and work to bring him back into the world. And of course the same people who have been cruel to us will be around to be cruel to him. We hope they will at least have compassion on the child, but we've learned there are some ugly people out there."

# Tips in carrier search come from near, far

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

From his Atlantic City, N.J., home, Fred phoned and said that he couldn't forget a television report about the two missing Des Moines-area newspaper carriers, that he was dreaming about them and was having weird feelings.

During a restless September night, he said he dreamed, "There're factories, then old shacks along this railroad track," then articles of clothing and a mystery person who appears from nowhere.

Like many others, Fred thought he could help authorities find Eugene Martin, who vanished from a south-side Des Moines neighborhood Aug. 12; and Johnny Gosch, who disappeared in West Des Moines on Sept. 5, 1982. Both boys were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register when last seen.

But the police didn't jump at a chance to tune in Fred's dreams. Fred said he got the brush off, and after studying a Des Moines map, he later said he couldn't locate the shadowy outbuildings or railroad track anyway.

The police haven't been discussing the leads but the massive search for the boys has produced little. While investigators are looking for new directions, the police department's hot line (246-9988) has cooled. There are few leads anymore. But judging from the calls and letters to The Register — many from those who earlier contacted police — the tipsters have handed investigators a lot to think about, some of it a tad strange.

A man calling himself "Richard, the next president of the USA" showed up at The Register with a handwritten note. It said the youngsters were taken by a 6-foot abductor who "has gray hair and was wearing jimmaisium (sic) workout clothes."

"I want all the detective wage," he penned. "He wouldn't have been found by anyone but me because I surveyed (sic) his appearance at the YMCA, Des Moines."

Richard said he wasn't interested in the reward money. But he wanted to be head pressman at the newspaper.

A Cedar Falls man said investigators should consider full moons because there is a theory that full moons cause some people to lose their minds.

"Johnny Gosch's disappearance was two days after a full moon and Eugene



Martin's disappearance was one day after the full moon," he said.

One letter writer spelled out an elaborate tale of how Gosch may have disappeared, saying he was taken by a migrant farm worker "who was attracted to the prosperous homes in Des Moines visible from the freeway." After complaining about the anonymous tips the newspaper was receiving, the letter writer mailed the suggestions — anonymously.

Winterset man who had spent some time in prison had an idea on how to unravel the mysteries. Infiltrate sex activities in the community, and find out who may be responsible for what may be a sex-related abduction.

He said he went to authorities with an offer to operate a massage parlor if they would put up the money. He said he was turned down. He then came to The Register and made a similar proposal. He was turned down.

A man who identified himself as Nario Marcial Riojas called collect from Monclova, Mexico, to say he had read in a local newspaper about the missing youngsters and he had "vital information" about them.

Asked if he had seen either of the youngsters, he said, "Yes," that they were alive and together somewhere in the United States. How did he know?

"We're six people, right?" he said. "We sit around a table and we work with concentration. We transport our minds all over the world. It's like mental telepathy, but we call it the transportation of the mind."

Many people who claimed to have psychic powers said they saw the youngsters in a number of places. Some said the boys were alive and others said they were dead. One woman said Martin was driven away from his paper route in an AMC Pacer.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3B

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 10/14/84

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;  
Title:

UNSUB;  
EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or  
Classification: 7-1053 & 7-1145  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053A-235

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 16 1984	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Former paper deliverer charged with sexual abuse

By TOM ALEX and TOM SUK

Register Staff Writers

Des Moines warrants of third-degree sexual abuse and lewd and lascivious acts with a child have been filed against Frank Sykora, 37, of 1538 Twenty-third St., a former carrier for The Des Moines Register.

Sykora had not been taken into custody by early today, police said. Specific allegations outlined in the warrants were not made available.

Private investigator Sam Soda claims that for years Sykora "coaxed" young carriers into his apartment and had fondled some of them. Soda said he has had no involvement in the matter since giving the information to police who conducted an independent investigation.

"It's all in the tapes, they didn't have to get back to me," he said Thursday night. "It's not good to cross lines."

Soda added that police "put it together quicker than I thought."

In a videotape made at Soda's office at 1123 Army Post Road, Soda said that Sykora "admitted sleeping with numerous young boys." Asked if "sleeping with" was supposed to be interpreted as sexual conduct, Soda replied at a news conference Monday: "He has been sleeping with boys,

touching boys and he masturbated one of the boys."

In an interview Monday, Sykora said: "I told him several boys slept with me. I have one bed and they'd come over to spend the night for whatever reason they wanted, but most had trouble getting up at 1 a.m." when Sykora would leave his home to make the newspaper deliveries.

"They had the choice of sleeping in the bed or sleeping on the floor. It didn't matter to me or make any difference. I didn't molest any kids," Sykora said. He added that he cooperated with Soda because he believed the private investigator was a law enforcement officer and went to Sykora's office believing it was a police substation.

Soda said he did not misrepresent himself and said Sykora "knew who he was talking to and exactly what was going on."

Sykora worked as a carrier in the downtown and surrounding areas for seven years. During his rounds he was accompanied by "runners," boys he had hired to carry newspapers to doorsteps from his car. Sykora has been fired from his job at The Register.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state )

Page 5M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 10/19/84

Edition Morning

UNSUB;

Title EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character KIDNAPING

or 7-1145 &amp; 7-1053

Classification

Submitting Office OMAHA

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# Probers get no new clues on 'murder'

By BOB SHAW

Register Staff Writer

Iowa officials investigating the disappearance of Des Moines Register carrier Johnny Gosch had not received confirmation Thursday that a teen-age boy reportedly mutilated and murdered August 1983 in southern Minnesota may have been from Iowa.

A 10-year-old boy was one of three Minnesota children who reportedly told authorities that adults forced the children to stab an unidentified teen-ager in a gully near Jordan, Minn., the site of a rash of sex crimes against children.

That 10-year-old, who talked with a source officially involved in the sex-crime cases, reportedly said at various times the murder victim came from the Twin Cities, came from Iowa and "had an uncle in Iowa."

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Investigation has assigned four agents to study reports of the ritualistic murder.

But Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation officials said Thursday they have received no official word on the possibility of an Iowa connection. Eugene Meyer, assistant director of the Iowa DCI, said the connection hasn't been established. Iowa officials have been searching for Register carriers Johnny Gosch, who vanished in 1982, and Eugene Martin, who disappeared last August.

"It sure would be of interest to us if there was a connection," said Des Moines Police Lt. Marvin Stookey, who is handling part of the Gosch investigation.

The source, who insisted he not be identified, said three children who talked about the murder were suspected or confirmed victims of sexual abuse in the area around Jordan, a town 40 miles southwest of the Twin Cities. The source said the three, who hadn't seen each other in a year, told corroborating stories of the murder.

There is no physical evidence supporting allegations of a murder.

One child who talked to the source said the children had been forced to participate in the killing and his parents were among those involved.

While admitting the story about the murder sounded bizarre, and certain details of the children's stories differed, the source is confident they are telling the truth.

"I have lost a week's sleep over it," the source said Wednesday night. "But on the basis of what I heard, the case is certainly worth pursuing."

The source interviewed one of the witnesses and heard about the statements of other children from investigators.

The new allegations of murder are believed to be why Scott County attorney Kathleen Morris dropped all charges against 22 residents on Monday. At the time, she didn't explain her action, saying only that it was necessary to prevent further injury to child sexual abuse victims.

"Kids are capable and competent when testifying about sexual abuses, but when violence is involved, they are less reliable. They get so scared," said the source, explaining Morris's decision. "It's more strain than you can put a kid under. Those kids will never grow up normal as it is."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 5M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 10/19/84

Edition: Morning

**UNSUB;**  
**JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;**

**Title:**  
**UNSUB;**  
**EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM**

**Character:** KIDNAPING

or

**Classification:** 7-1053 & 7-1145

**Submitting Office:** OMAHA

**Indexing:**

7-1053A-237

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 20 1984	
FBI - DES MOINES	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 20

Omaha World Herald

Omaha, Nebraska

September 4, 1984

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date:  
Edition:Title: After 2 Years,  
Gosch Disappearance  
Gives Mother Reason  
Character: for Angeror  
Classification: 7-1053  
Submitting Office: Omaha

# After 2 Years, Gosch Disappearance

## Gives Mother Reason for Anger

By Margaret Stafford

West Des Moines, Iowa (AP) — They sold candy on street corners to raise money. They sent posters around the country. They hired private investigators. They testified before Congress. And still their boy is missing.

Wednesday will mark two years since Noreen and John Gosch's 12-year-old son, Johnny, set out on his Sunday newspaper route and never returned.

"Wednesday's going to be a terrible day . . . a long, awful day," Mrs. Gosch said in an interview. "You always remember, but on Sept. 5, it hurts a little more."

**The Bottom Line**

The Gosches have been leaders in a growing nationwide effort to educate Americans about missing children but, Mrs. Gosch said, "The bottom line is that my son is still missing. That's what it all boils down to for me."

Gosch has said he and his wife would not cease their search "until our bones are dust and we can't move."

Their search took on extra incentive in August, when another Des Moines paperboy disappeared under eerily similar circumstances.

Eugehe Wade Martin, 14, had gone to a street corner early Aug. 12 to pick up his copies of the Des Moines Sunday Register for delivery. Witnesses saw him talking to a man.

It almost was a carbon copy of Johnny's disappearance. He also had gone to a street corner to pick up his papers. Witnesses reported seeing him talking to a man who seemed drunk or high on drugs.

Despite searches, reward offers of more than \$100,000 and quick police action, there are no solid leads in the Martin case.

**Bitterly Critical**

The significant difference in the cases, Mrs. Gosch said, was how police and townspeople responded immediately to Eugene's disappearance. The Gosches have been bitterly critical of law enforcement officers for refusing to treat Johnny's disappearance as an abduction until the trail was cold. They said police didn't start looking for their son for 72 hours.

"It was an atrocity that they didn't look for Johnny Gosch like they did for Gene Martin," Mrs. Gosch said. "At least the Martins didn't have to go through what we did. At least they didn't have the added burden of fighting the system."

One reason for the quick attention in the Martin case was, "Johnny Gosch bill," an Iowa law passed this year making it mandatory for police to search for missing people as soon as they are reported.

Law enforcement officials say they are continuing their search for Johnny.

"We absolutely are still involved in that case," said FBI agent John Evans. "Whenever we receive any information, it's covered. We are doing everything humanly possible to get that child returned to his parents."

Both Evans and Sgt. Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines Police Department said they were working on the assumption that Johnny was alive.

"I can't afford the luxury of theories about whether he's alive or dead," McKinney said. "We're still working on it. Obviously, the tips have slowed down, but we still get information from all over and we check on it."

Reported sightings of Johnny Gosch still come in. The boy reportedly was seen in Florida and Corpus Christi,

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Texas, last year. In February, his mother said a boy who sounded like Johnny called three times in one night, sounding drugged or injured. The calls were too brief to trace.

Mrs. Gosch said the descriptions of the boy thought to be Johnny said he now had long hair, walked with a limp, had slurred speech and was almost 6 feet tall. Each time a sighting is reported, the Gosches' private detective responds. So far, the closest he's come is within four days of the boy — and a man who is with him all the time.

#### Child-Porn Ring?

"It's good on the one hand because we know he's alive," Mrs. Gosch said. "But it's frustrating because we can't be there at the same time. Someday, we will be."

The Gosches think their son was captured for a national child-pornography ring. Law officers have told her that "stringers" are sent to get young children for pedophiles.

"We've been told these creeps get \$12,000 to \$20,000 a head, depending on how satisfactory the children are," Mrs. Gosch said. "Hey, the risks are pretty high if they get caught, so the pay has to be good."

The authorities have not officially linked the cases of the two missing paperboys, but the public has. Hundreds of volunteers helped search for both boys after Eugene disappeared.

Mrs. Gosch said she was torn between gratitude for the help and anger that it didn't come sooner. Mostly, she's angry.

"You bet I'm angry," Mrs. Gosch said. "Some people helped us, but a large percentage of the people in Des Moines condemned us. We faced a lot of narrow-mindedness and apathy in this town. It left a bad taste in my mouth."

Dallas Davis, a neighbor, shares the family's anger.

"Noreen Gosch has been force-feeding this state for two years about missing children," Ms. Davis said. "But people still sit on their fannies. They still won't believe their children are in trouble."

There are two other Gosch children — Joe and Kristy, both grown — who also have felt the ordeal keenly.

#### Lost Composure?

"They are angry, too, and frightened that this kind of thing can happen and

people can react so cruelly," Mrs. Gosch said.

When Kristy Gosch was selling candy to help raise money for the detectives, a woman spat on her, saying, "Your mother is disgusting, and I wouldn't do anything to help her!"

Mrs. Gosch told of having people watch her while she shopped for groceries, and say things like, "What's she doing buying avocados when her boy is missing?"

At the end of one of Mrs. Gosch's speeches, a man stood up and said he thought she didn't have a son named Johnny and had made the whole thing up to get attention.

"I told him I hoped the next child taken was his," she said. "It was the only time she has lost her composure in

public.

But Mrs. Gosch also is quick to note the good things that have come along with the bad.

"We have met some wonderful, kind people that we never would have known without this," she said. "We have made some positive changes to help the missing children and we're going to push for more."

#### Toll of Stress

But the stress takes its toll. The Gosches sometimes "are so tired we feel we can't move another inch," she said. And at times she can't believe her son is gone.

"Sometimes in the middle of the night I'll wake up and think it's all been a nightmare and I'll go down to Johnny's room. Then I open the door and he's not there and I remember."

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# Entrepreneurs try to make money off families of missing children

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Review Staff Writer

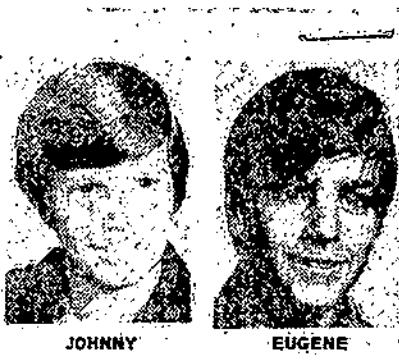
Some psychics have telephoned John and Noreen Gosch to say that for \$25 they would send the name of a person who abducted their missing son.

Those kind of suspicious offers, which the Gosches have flatly turned down, are mostly gone now, but the West Des Moines couple has had to deal with others who want to make a buck in the name of missing children.

"We're not going to be involved with any business selling anything that rips people off," says Noreen Gosch, mother of the newspaper carrier who has been missing for more than two years.

She has turned down offers of endorsements for a number of gadgets, among them coloring books and plastic identification charms that hang around a child's neck. To head off exploitation, the Gosches have taken an extraordinary step and copyrighted their son Johnny's name and the material they present at abduction-awareness lectures around the Midwest.

In the past three years, an outrage over abducted and abused children has

JOHNNY  
GOSCHEUGENE  
MARTIN

spawned volunteer and professional groups and businesses nationwide. Jay Howell, executive director of one of those groups, the Washington, D.C.-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, says there were fewer than 30 organizations and businesses in 1981. Today, the number has swollen to 150.

"Every week we learn about the existence of a new group or someone who is advertising a new product or soliciting funds in the name of missing or exploited children," he says. "Some of them are attempting to raise money. Some of them have various products or services or a magazine or something to attach to the child or something to put in a child's shoe. It runs a wide spectrum."

Among them is a Vista, Calif.,

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The Des Moines Register  
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Indexing:

grandmother who offers iron-on identification labels for \$5. There's the not-for-profit National Fingerprint Center for Missing Children, founded by a former art teacher in Kirksville, Mo., which will classify and keep fingerprints for \$3.50. The Missing Children's Network in Dayton, Ohio, organized by a television producer there, accepts pictures of missing children without charge. It videotapes the pictures and then distributes them to 61 television stations, which are charged a fee.

A National Kid Print Kit is offered by the Orange County Rescue Unit in Buena Park, Calif., for \$1.50. An identification microdisc will be cemented by a West Des Moines dentist to an inside molar for \$20.

Janett Demenoff, spokeswoman for Child Find Inc. of New Paltz, N.Y., which keeps the largest list of missing children, says: "Many of the organizations are mom-and-pop types. They are formed by people who have been victims. They get caught up in their emotions, which eventually, upon the return of the child or the passage of time, fizzles out. It's a tough thing to

## TIE-INS

Please turn to Page 8B

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FBI/DOJ

# Groups give misinformation

## TIE-INS

*Continued from Page One*

do. There's a lot of stress involved. But they keep springing up."

Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc., set up two years ago to raise money to search for the youngster, has collected more than \$100,000, most of it from the sale of chocolate bars and buttons. Noreen Gosch says the fund is tightly controlled and used mostly to pay private investigators.

"We don't give any money to half-baked idiots," she says.

The Help Find Eugene Martin Fund, organized shortly after that Des Moines Register newspaper carrier disappeared Aug. 12, has about \$15,000 in donations that are to be used mostly for a private investigator.

### Outpouring of Information

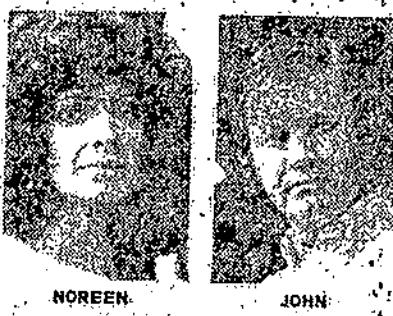
Much of the outpouring to missing children organizations around the United States has been effective and well-intentioned, Howell says. But it has also unleashed misinformation and thieves who have taken advantage of vulnerable parents and a sympathetic public, he says. The lure has been the rush of money that has been contributed in the name of missing children.

Howell says, "Some people are doing direct-mail fund-raising with inaccurate statistics. I don't even know who they are. We see some who overstate what the problems are and some who underestimate them."

One group urges parents to fingerprint children annually although fingerprints don't change.

Child Find's Demenkoff says of the organizations and businesses asking help: "It's sometimes difficult to draw the line between exploitation and what is enterprise. Is it wrong to go in, put something together to solve the problem and make some money from it?"

Child Find, which recently emerged from a state investigation of its own affairs, offers a "child finder kit" for



NOREEN  
GOSCH

JOHN  
GOSCH

\$10. Demenkoff says the money is needed to pay the rent.

"It costs us \$5,000 a month for a toll free number," she says. "Where are we going to get that kind of money? The foundations and the corporations don't come through with it. You've got to pay your bills."

### Parents Are Vulnerable

Demenkoff says Child Find has had to warn parents about private investigators, which she says may be the biggest of all threats to parents. "They are extremely vulnerable to private investigators," she says. "Unfortunately, we've found there are more bad investigators than there are good."

One parent paid an investigator \$3,000 before she learned she could have located her child by making a few telephone calls, Demenkoff says.

"With fingerprint kits there should be a caveat, that parents shouldn't be lulled into a false sense of security," she says. "If you have fingerprints, some of them are led to believe it's somehow going to protect you. That's simply not true."

Noreen Gosch says she and her husband were in an Illinois town recently when a woman walked in with a camera to videotape the Gosches' free lecture on abduction awareness. "I asked her what she was doing, and she said that she was going to copy the tape and sell them for \$25 each," Noreen Gosch said.

Police were called, and the woman was removed.

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 Page 2A  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date 11/15/84  
 Editor Morning

UNSUB;  
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Indexing

# No evidence children were killed in sex ring

By EILEEN OGINTZ

© 1984 Chicago Tribune

ST. PAUL, MINN. — Minnesota and federal authorities announced Wednesday that they have found no evidence that any children were killed in connection with an alleged sex ring in Scott County.

They said investigators will concentrate all efforts on determining the truth about widely publicized allegations of child sex-abuse and pornography by adults in the small town of Jordan, southwest of Minneapolis.

"The point is to allay the fears of the community," said Richard Blay, FBI special agent in charge of the Minneapolis division. "There appears to be no evidence of murders in Scott County related to the sex abuse cases."

Minnesota Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III and John Erskine, superintendent of the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, joined Blay at a news conference.

## No Conclusions

"Our actions today should not be seen as drawing any conclusions as to the validity of those allegations," Humphrey said regarding the child sex-abuse and pornography reports.

The murder investigation was the reason Scott County Prosecutor Kathleen Morris suddenly dropped child sex-abuse charges against 21 adults last month. County prosecutors originally charged 24 adults, all from

around Jordan, with sexually abusing their children and then trading them to others at bizarre sex parties.

One defendant pleaded guilty, and the first couple to go on trial, Robert and Lois Bentz, were acquitted. Just as the second trial was getting under way, Morris announced she had dropped the cases in order to protect the murder investigation. Going to trial on the sex-abuse charges would have required the disclosure of sensitive investigative documents.

Morris' announcement sent shock waves across the state, with Minnesotans questioning whether guilty people were getting off free or innocent people were wrongly accused. The furor prompted Morris to turn her cases over to Humphrey's office. At the time, the FBI and the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension announced they were joining the investigation.

Morris could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Defense attorneys reiterated what they had long maintained, that the murder investigation simply was a smokescreen to enable Morris to bow out of prosecuting cases she knew she couldn't win.

"It was all a face-saving device," said Marc Kurzman, who represents Greg and Jane Myers, two of the original defendants. The couple filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Morris.

"This has probably caused some severe harm to some of the children," Kurzman said. "That's the most unfortunate thing to come out of it."

Three of the child witnesses had alleged that three boys between the ages of 7 and 11 had been brought to the Jordan area, perhaps for pornographic purposes, and were killed in the summer of 1983 after sex parties.

Some of the former defendants in the sex abuse cases were said to be involved. The children's bodies allegedly were dumped nearby, two of them in the Minnesota River.

But after four weeks of intense investigation, Erskine, Blay and Humphrey announced they could find nothing to substantiate the youngsters' allegations.

Erskine said a dozen agents had been working on the case full time for the last month. They never, however, dragged the Minnesota River as they had said they would. He indicated one attempt was foiled by bad weather and prosecutors had decided to stop the murder probe before a second attempt could be made.

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# Iowa conference focuses on child safety

By BOB SHAW

Des Moines Register Staff Writer

Between the dangers of drugs, abductions and abuse by adults, growing up in Iowa is no longer child's play.

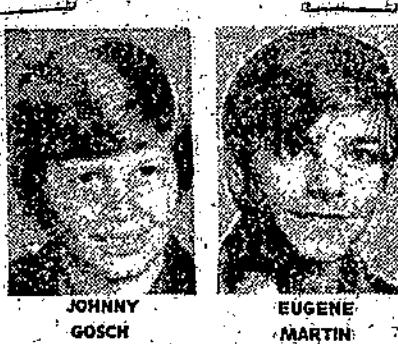
But a conference called "Children in Jeopardy" Nov. 28 at Drake University is aiming to make Iowa safer for children.

Gov. Terry Branstad will preside over the by-invitation-only conference, involving dozens of experts from Iowa, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

"This concern was certainly heightened by the kidnapping of the two paperboys and the doubling of child abuse over two years," Branstad said Thursday. Two newspaper carriers were abducted while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register — Eugene Martin in Des Moines last August, and Johnny Gosch in West Des Moines in 1982.

"There is a growing concern about molestations, missing children, children who are sexually abused, or abused any other way," said the governor.

The conference's 10 workshops will



cover five areas: public safety of children; child abuse prevention; substance abuse, nutrition and health care, and women and children in poverty.

"On the topic of child safety, this is the largest conference ever in Iowa," said Barbara Jackson, who helped lead the conference's 40-member steering committee, in which 25 groups were represented.

"The committee wanted to target an audience that wasn't professionals. They didn't want a conference where

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The Des Moines Register  
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professionals come and talk to other professionals about what they probably already know," said Jackson.

Those invited to the conference "are influential, but they don't necessarily know about all of these problems."

Branstad said he would present "a whole package of proposals about the first of December." They include measures to quicken the flow of information about missing children and to toughen penalties for those convicted of crimes against children.

Branstad also mentioned a proposal to publicize the backgrounds of any such person to keep him from getting jobs involving contact with children.

#### Privacy Law Change

Branstad said he was trying to change a state law preventing the publicizing of names of missing children. "That is unfortunate. But there is previous legislation saying it can't be re-

**CHILDREN**

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FB/DOJ

# Panelists on young come from many walks of life

## CHILDREN

*Continued from Page One*

leased. We have to have that information available."

Among the conference's scheduled speakers are Peter Edelman, Georgetown University professor, who will give the keynote address; John B. Rabun Jr., deputy director of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; Dr. Robert Aldrich, founder of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and Anne Cohn, executive director of the National Committee for the Preven-

tion of Child Abuse.

Panel members and moderators will include professors, law enforcement officers, doctors, lawyers, businessmen and others from several state agencies, the state Legislature, the Des Moines City Council, the Des Moines Register, KCCI-TV, and national and state abuse prevention groups.

The conference is being sponsored by The Des Moines Register, Drake University, Hubbell Realty, Meredith Corp., Pioneer Hi-Bred International Corp. and the United Way of Central Iowa.

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# Tips on two missing boys continue to draw blanks

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

He was a loner, an introspective boy sitting quietly in a Philadelphia classroom. Was he missing Des Moines newspaper carrier Eugene Martin or a remarkable look-alike?

"I don't want to create any false hopes," said the South Philadelphia High School teacher who spotted the youngster in her classroom. "But I think we may have something here." So began another of many so-called "sightings" of the 14-year-old Martin, who vanished without a trace Aug. 12 while delivering newspapers in a south Des Moines neighborhood.

Like the others, the tip from the teacher who asked that her name not be published was a dead end. The mysterious boy wasn't Martin. But the woman's effort to help went beyond most assistance given by tipsters who want to find Martin and newsboy Johnny Gosch, who apparently was abducted Sept. 5, 1982.

**Machine Tip**

Among the recent tips was one from an Oklahoma man, whose business cards say his "scientific investigations" locate unmarked gravesites, and abducted, missing and lost persons.

Using an "electromagnetic wave machine" he said he bought in Wisconsin, the man claimed he placed posters of the youngsters into the machine, got their "frequencies" and determined that they were in Des Moines.

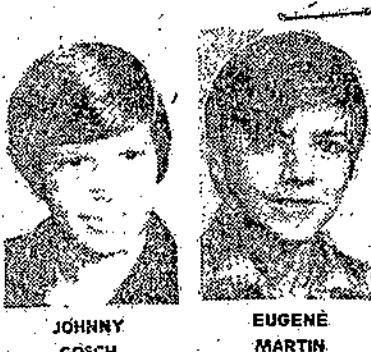
He said police didn't show much interest in his work.

The Philadelphia teacher saw a post office poster announcing a reward for Martin's or Gosch's return and reported her suspicions about the youngster.

"I have children also, and I know how the parents must suffer," she said in a telephone call to The Register.

The mysterious youngster recently had enrolled in the school, had a Latin-sounding name and was about Martin's size and age, she said.

"We didn't know much about him except that he told us he was from Cal-



ifornia," she said. "If you disregard his hair which is light [Martin's is dark brown], they have the same mouth, ears and eyes."

Adding to the mystery was the youngster's claim that he had a secret name.

"I asked him what it was, and he said he didn't want to tell much. Then I asked him if I could have a letter from the name. He said 'M,'" she said. "M as in Martin." Using a ruse to get the youngster to take a physical exam, the teacher sent him to the school nurse to have him weighed and measured. She borrowed a copy of a school identification photo, took drawings the youngster had made and sent the information to Des Moines.

**Some Similarities**

The youth weighed 122 pounds, about Martin's weight. He was about two inches taller. The small photograph revealed a boy who looked like Martin but whose chin was rounder, eyes set wider apart and eyebrows that were shaped differently.

The search for Martin and Gosch continues, but authorities have uncovered no information that would indicate what happened to the boys, whether the disappearances are connected, who might have abducted them or if they are dead or alive.

Des Moines Police Sgt. Bill Mullins, spokesman for the investigation, said calls on the hot line (515-246-9988) continue, but they now are rare.

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# Questions abound in case of missing newsboys

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Des Moines Staff Writer

After digging through a mountain of leads for more than two months, investigators have been unable to find that glimmer of daylight that would tell them who abducted two Des Moines-area newsboys.

Was it a loner? A person who kills for sex? Were Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin grabbed by a pornography ring? Are the suspected

**RAY CORNELL** abductions, almost two years apart, connected? Are the youngsters, who vanished while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, alive or dead?

"We're not working on anything substantial" that would give the answers, said Des Moines Police Sgt. Bill Mullins, spokesman for the police.

The utter lack of a vital lead in either of the cases has kept investigators from tapping into the FBI's acclaimed behavioral science unit for help. An FBI source said the unit has not been called to assemble what it calls a "personality assessment profile" of a suspect because "we can't give them anything to work with — no crime scene, no bodies, nothing."

But the setbacks themselves may have shed light:

- The lack of good leads points to a loner, a type of person suspected early in the investigation who confides in no one, who has no criminal record, who blends respectfully into the surroundings.

- The wealth of information from the public, which the FBI has entered into a computer, may never yield a lead. Police will have to dig harder and deeper, some close to the investigation say, for physical clues — and hope for a lucky break.

## "Tons of Tips"

"We got tons of tips to look at," said Joe Drole, an assistant district attorney in Atlanta, Ga., and prosecutor of Wayne Williams, the Atlanta free-lance photographer charged in the string of 28 murders there. Williams was found guilty of two of the slayings and now is serving two life prison terms.

"Most of what we got from the public ended up not being useful, particularly the psychics," Drole said. "There were thousands and thousands of calls. It was good people were cooperating, but it created a major problem in handling the information."

The search led to Williams only after police undertook an enormous stakeout of the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta, where the bodies of the victims were being dumped. About 3 a.m. on May 22, 1981, law officers stationed near one of the 10 bridges happened to hear a splash. Williams, who was driving the only car on the bridge, was stopped and questioned but was released. Two days later, though, another body, that of Nathaniel Cater, 27, turned up downstream.

"We didn't put forth one theory about what kind of a person we were looking for," Drole said of the two-year investigation. "The psychics imagined everything you could name. The only ones who came close were the FBI's behavioral scientists. They said we were dealing with someone who liked to be around the media, who probably lived alone or with his parents and was probably in his early 30s. Williams was 23, but the FBI was otherwise right."

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## Celebrated Cases

The need for a massive search and a turn of luck before investigators achieved a breakthrough has been the course of some other celebrated cases.

Ray A. Cornell, former Iowa prison ombudsman and now a criminal justice consultant and writer, said the search for the killer of 26 persons in California led to Juan Corona after Corona attempted to cash a check belonging to one of the victims. Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire ripper who killed 16 women, was discovered after he parked illegally. "Son of Sam," David Berkowitz, was caught in New York after police sorted through parking tickets to find who had been in

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# Hunters urged to search for Gosch-Martin clues

By TOM KOLLINGS

9 The Register Staff

Roughly a quarter-million hunters will take to the fields and forests of Iowa next weekend for the Nov. 3 opening of the pheasant and quail seasons, and officials are urging them to keep their eyes open for clues to the disappearances of two Des Moines Register newspaper carriers.

Rewards totaling \$125,000 have been offered for information about Eugene Martin, who disappeared from his newspaper route in south Des Moines last Aug. 12, or Johnny Gosch, who vanished from his route in West Des Moines two years earlier, Sept. 5, 1982.

"Next weekend's hunters and trappers could constitute, in effect, the largest search party ever put afield," said Larry Wilson, director of the Iowa Conservation Commission.

In addition to the expected 250,000 pheasant and quail hunters, another 20,000 to 22,000 trappers will be prowling streams and marshes, sometimes venturing into some of the state's most remote areas. Wildlife biologists and officers of the Iowa Conservation Commission also will be out in force to help game wardens with law enforcement.

Experts estimate that if hunters and trappers in the five states surrounding Iowa were alert to signs of the missing boys, they would swell the potential search party to more than 1 million persons.

The hot line number for information in the Gosch-Martin cases is 515-248-9988. Or persons with information can call Harry Braafhart, safety manager at The Register, at 515-284-8209 Monday through Friday.



EUGENE  
MARTIN

JOHNNY  
GOSCH

the area of one of 13 shootings.

"There isn't the standard law enforcement techniques here," said Cornell. "It takes an inspirational act and luck."

Cornell is writing a book about serial killers, and some of the material has been gained first-hand. He was in the Iowa Men's Reformatory at Anamosa for burglary in 1969 and 1970 with John Gacy, who was serving 18 months for a sex offense involving a teen-age Waterloo boy. Gacy was con-

victed in 1980 of the sex-related Chicago-area slayings of 33 young men and boys. Cornell played bridge with Gacy at Anamosa and was the president of the reformatory's Jaycee chapter at the time Gacy was chaplain.

"It came as quite a shock," Cornell said of Gacy's killings.

## Serial Killings

"When I began the research for the book it didn't take long to find that serial killings weren't isolated phenomena," Cornell said. "There are almost 90 people who have killed more than 10 people. Every time I pick up a crime book these days, there's another one."

Cornell said his theory is that the Gosch-Martin disappearances probably are the work of one person, perhaps a serial killer. Said Cornell: "Time, early morning. Places, residential neighborhoods. Circumstances, both newspaper carriers. It's systematic. It's grimly intelligent. No way is it two different people."

He said the abductor is "probably outwardly normal, a loner, certainly no social animal, who moves and travels on his own, who is not married now and lives in a formalized setting, probably with aged parents."

"He has nocturnal habits. You don't get up at 6 a.m. to kidnap someone. There's no scary saber scar across the face. He would be the type who could get in the proximity of the youngsters without frightening them."

He could be, Cornell suggested, a transvestite. "What kind of a freak it is would have to be someone who could get close to the kids, like a woman or someone who appeared as a woman."

Cornell added, "He's compulsive and psychotic. One day he might wake up and say, 'Oh, my God, what have I done?' and blow his brains out without leaving a note."

Then, the answers would be buried forever, he said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Climate of fear in W.D.M.?

By ANNE CAROTHERS-KAY

Register Staff Writer

Julie Mitchell is not the kind of woman who is easily rattled.

Nevertheless, after two incidents of strangers approaching her sons, this West Des Moines mother no longer allows any of her four children — kindergartners to a high school student — to walk to school.

The Mitchell children aren't permitted to play in the neighborhood park three blocks away without adult supervision and their mother has been known to follow her 10-year-old son when he goes to catch crawdads in a nearby creek.

The Mitchells, and other families like them, are victims of a climate of fear that has settled in West Des Moines.

Since the disappearances of newspaper carriers Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin, many West Des Moines families have begun to watch and guard their children to a degree believed unnecessary two years ago in this suburb of mostly upper middle-class neighborhoods.

The mood of uneasiness shows itself in several ways:

- Many children are no longer allowed to walk to school alone. One mother no longer lets her son walk to a friend's house six blocks away.

- Several neighborhoods have started procedures to "track" neighborhood children as they play at different homes.

- Several parents say their kids are required to call home each time they arrive or leave a neighbor's home.

- Children who were once warned against trusting strangers are now drilled on the subject by parents who stage examples of how strangers might try to get children into a car. West Des Moines schools show films and bring police into the schools to lecture on the subject.

• In the past two months, approximately 150 suburban families have responded to a tape-recorded telephone message that offers to register children on a national list. The owners of the company, Secure 24, located in Urbandale, say almost everyone called listens to the entire recording, even if they don't respond.

• One West Des Moines elementary school has begun to lock its doors during school hours to keep unwelcome visitors out.

The changes in West Des Moines life seem to be prompted in some cases by paranoia fueled by exaggerated rumors of attempted abductions, and in others by simple caution.

"I was not one who was really convinced that children were being systematically taken," said Mitchell, 50, Twenty-fifth St., of stories of an organized network of child abductors. "One side of me wants to say 'Oh, come on now,' to those stories, but another side of me says 'I can believe it,'" said Mitchell, whose watchdog attitude has been prompted by personal experience.

Last spring, Mitchell said, her youngest son was approached by a man who told the boy he would put him in a McDonald's restaurant commercial if the child would get in the man's van.

About the same time, she said, her 9-year-old son and a friend were approached by two people in a car while the boys were walking to school. Her son described the people as "two grossly ugly women or two men dressed as women."

"Since that time, no one in my house walks to school," said Mitchell. "I mainly do it for my own peace of mind. I have two kindergartners and I just can't rest wondering whether they got there or not."

"I know that sounds bad. . . . As a matter of fact, it is bad when a parent

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 1 and 7N-WS  
The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date 10/31/84

Edition Morning

UNSUB;

Title EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character KIDNAPING

or

Classification 7-1145 &amp; 7-1053

Submitting Office OMAHA

Indexing

7-1053

**MITCHELL**

Please turn to Page 7

7-1053A-252

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# School principal says parents in W.D.M. handling situation well

**MITCHELL**

*Continued from Page One*

can't let a child do something as simple as walk to school. It makes me angry that my kids can't have the same independence growing up that I did," said Mitchell, who was raised in West Des Moines.

"It bothers me that we can't live in a place as innocuous as West Des Moines without having to worry."

Although not everyone has reacted as the Mitchells have, parents, school officials and police agree that the community generally is worried about the safety of its children.

West Des Moines Detective Steve Hoffman said the feeling of concern usually escalates in the fall when children are returning to school.

"I think there are people who want to keep their kids in the house 24 hours a day," said Hoffman, who works in the department's crime prevention and juvenile units. "We have to be careful that we don't over-frighten children."

Hoffman said he doesn't believe the number of attempted child abductions has increased in West Des Moines, but added that more people are reporting suspicious incidents to police.

Hoffman said the reports of attempted child abductions average about two a month. Many of those cases are unfounded and some of them

are the fabrications of children trying to avoid punishment because they were late getting home from school.

Many parents, such as Diane Hayes, say it's hard to remain calm when rumors of attempted child snappings spread so quickly. She complained that television and newspaper reporters ignore most of these incidents, so parents have only the rumor mill on which to rely.

"I want to know the truth," said Hayes, 1640 N.W. 104th St., Clive. "I don't want to hear some fabrication or some exaggeration."

Doyle Miller, principal at Crossroads Park Elementary School, 1050 Fiftieth St., said he believes West Des Moines parents are handling the situation well.

"I know there's a lot of anxiety, considering the fact that [Johnny Gosch] was from this area. But I'm pleased with the way the parents are handling the situation," said Miller.

"The problem is how do we handle this without causing hysteria," he said. "We agonize about that quite a bit. We hate to think that our children are growing up in a society where they can't trust anyone."

Said Mitchell: "I keep thinking that maybe everyone will come to grips with this. Maybe something will happen to change this. But until then, I just don't want anything to happen to my boys because I was neglectful."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Noreen Goseh criticizes police work

By TOM ALEX

*Register Staff Writer*

Noreen Gosch, mother of missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, alleged Sunday that a former Des Moines Register employee left the company without picking up his paycheck "right after Johnny disappeared" two years ago.

She said the man, who resembles a composite picture of the person she believes kidnapped her son, now is working in a newspaper circulation department in Arizona.

Gosch called a Sunday afternoon press conference but did not notify The Register because, she said, The Register "has already made up its mind." She said she gave reporters the name of the former Register employee, but "it was off the record what the man's name is. We are the ones who found that information. We got one of The Des Moines Register employees to go through records for us."

Joseph Thornton, a lawyer for the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company, said the man left the newspaper in July 1982 — about 1½ months before Gosch vanished — and

he has not been linked to the disappearances of Gosch or missing newspaper carrier Eugene Martin.

"The FBI has interrogated this man," Thornton said. "He's been questioned several times. The FBI has determined he's not connected with Johnny's disappearance. . . . The newspaper and law enforcement people were systematically checking all former employees who left employment just before or just after Gosch's disappearance. It's a traditional investigative technique."

Gosch said she released information about the former Register employee Sunday because Des Moines Police Sgt. William Mullins stated police have nothing to do.

She said, "Police in West Des Moines also stated this after Johnny disappeared. We have proven there are a lot of things to do. Like this employee who left town. We received the information in January. He has an alibi from his wife or girlfriend, but we're not satisfied this man had nothing to do with it."

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Page 11A

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Des Moines, Iowa

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7-1053A-253

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FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Infrared rays may find clues to missing boys

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Technology that uses infrared rays to find lost underground water and electrical lines will soon peer into a secluded woodland near Madrid to see if it holds the secrets of what happened to two missing Des Moines-area newspaper carriers.

The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation is expected to begin an unusual search of the area in the next few days, possibly by airplane, to look with infrared equipment for traces of either Johnny Gosch, who has been missing for more than two years, or Eugene Martin, who disappeared Aug. 12.

Law officers were drawn to the heavily wooded area southwest of Madrid recently when a hunter reported that shortly after Gosch disappeared he saw what looked like a shallow grave and smelled a powerful odor there. He reported the finding to Madrid police two years ago, but the lead was never investigated.

The mystery deepened when, shortly after Martin disappeared, The Des Moines Register received a map mailed anonymously from California marking the general area. That was followed by a report from another hunter who told the DCI he saw someone digging in the area recently.

At least two searches on foot, which included some digging, failed to uncover anything. Investigators do not know what to make of the developments, but they have decided the area needs a thorough search.

The case of the missing newspaper carriers continues to baffle law officers because both boys apparently were abducted without a trace as they prepared to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register. There have been no solid leads and no suspects despite a massive effort by Des Moines-area police officers, the DCI and the FBI.

The infrared search, to be done by Mid-America Thermography of Pella, is a first for the company, according to its president, Larry Stursma. He said the technology can detect things buried years ago.

"What we'll be looking for is a temperature difference that indicates a change in the density of the Earth," he said. "It depends on how much of the solar rays have been absorbed in that area. If the ground has been disturbed in recent years, that density is going to be different."

Weather conditions are important,

MADRID

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 Page 1M and 2M  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

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 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Rays help find marijuana fields

MADRID

Continued from Page One

he said, and recent heavy rains have delayed the survey.

Stursma said that the results of the survey may define general areas that investigators may want to take a closer look at.

Stursma's company, which was formed in 1981, uses its infrared equipment to look for trouble spots in electrical sub-stations, for weaknesses in machinery and to locate water and electrical lines that have been hidden underground for many years.

The technology also has helped investigators determine if a car is stolen by detecting if it had been recently painted. And it has been used in aerial surveys to find trouble spots in crops and to find marijuana fields.

7-1053A-254

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FBI/DOJ

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)  
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 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
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 Submitting Office OMAHA

Indexing

## Leaders meet to tackle issues of child safety

By FRANK SANTIAGO

*Register Staff Writer*

The state's top opinion-makers will assemble Wednesday to defuse some land mines that threaten to explode the notion that Iowa is a safe place for children.

Gov. Terry Branstad's "Children in Jeopardy" conference, said to be the only gathering of its kind in the nation, will pick through the problems of abductions, abuse, hunger and poverty of the state's young citizens.

The one-day, by-invitation-only meeting will attempt to focus public attention on the problems and gather ideas on what to do about them.

The conference, which begins at 9 a.m. at Drake University's Olmsted Center, comes in the wake of a troubling increase in reported incidents of exploited children and in the wake of the apparent abductions of two Des Moines-area newspaper carriers, Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin.

The conference also signals that the state might be ready to get tough. Branstad has pledged that Iowa will lead in fighting the abuse, and he has said he will offer several bills to the Iowa Legislature, among them tighter screening of applicants for day-care center licenses and tougher penalties

### CHILDREN

Please turn to Page 1A

7-1053A-257

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# Seminars to be broadcast on cable television

## CHILDREN

*Continued from Page One*  
for molesting children. He also has said he wants to find a way to disseminate information to the public about missing and abused children.

"We hope," said Barbara Jackson, a spokeswoman for the Iowa Department of Human Services and a conference planner, "that this will begin the process of learning the scope of the problem and what can be done."

"We can't expect government to do all the problem solving," she said. "It can't do it alone. It doesn't have the resources. There's got to be a higher awareness among people who can work on local solutions." From the conference, Jackson said, the organiz-

ers hope a "public and a private partnership" will emerge.

Invited are 500 business and government leaders and representatives from government agencies, including doctors and police officers, politicians and newspaper editors, and educators and service club presidents.

The sponsors are a cross-section of Iowa's public and private institutions, among them the Iowa Board of Regents, Department of Human Services, The Des Moines Register, Meredith Corp., Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., the Parent-Teachers Association, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Drake University, and the Des Moines Junior League.

Peter Edelman, a Georgetown University professor of law who writes on

juvenile justice, will be the keynote speaker.

The conference, portions of which will be shown live on Heritage Cablevision's Channel 4 beginning at 10 a.m., will include workshops on the safety of children and child abuse prevention.

John B. Rabun Jr., deputy director of the Washington D.C.-based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, will be the speaker at one of the workshops. It will be televised at 10 a.m.

The emotional impact of poverty on children will be discussed by Nicholas J. Long, professor of education at American University, in a workshop moderated by Carl R. Smith, a behavioral disorders consultant for the Iowa Department of Public Instruction. The workshop also will be televised by Heritage Cablevision.

In the afternoon, a session on safety programs for children will feature Robert Aldrich, a University of Washington pediatrician. The workshop also will be televised, as will a session on solutions to child abuse, which will feature Anne Cohn of Chicago, Ill., executive director of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

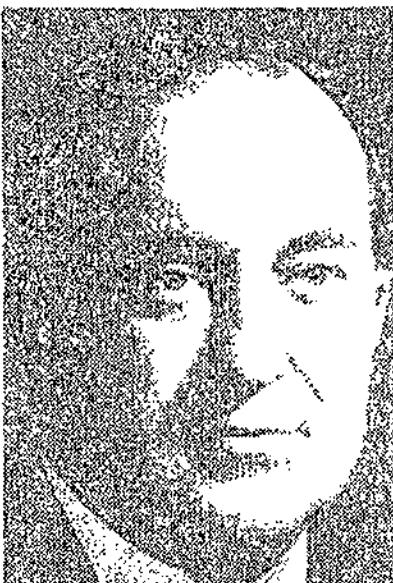
Among the other workshops are:

- Infant and child care problems — Kay Myers of the Iowa Nurses' Association, moderator; Dr. Lloyd J. Filer, University of Iowa pediatrician, speaker.

- Child safety in the city, schools, and counties -- Thomas R. Ruxlow, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, moderator; Des Moines Police Chief William Moulder,



William Moulder



Thomas Ruxlow

Story County Sheriff John P. Stark,  
and Des Moines' Phillips Traditional  
School Principal Dominick Bonanno,  
speakers.

• The child as a victim in substance abuse — Anne Hawkins, KCCI-TV reporter, moderator; panelists, Henry County Attorney Michael Riepe, George Belitsos of Youth and Shelter Services of Ames, and Pat Busick of Helping Services of Northeast Iowa in Dubuque.

• Safety programs that work for children — Candace Bakke, director of the Iowa Department of Transportation's public transit division, moderator; and panel members, Beverly Richardson of the Iowa State Patrol crime prevention center, Des Moines Register safety manager Harry Braafhart, and Abigail Swan of the University of Iowa child development clinic.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosches angry about handling of bone news

By FRANK SANTIAGO

*Register Staff Writer*

Noreen and John Gosch said Monday they were shaken and angered because authorities didn't keep them informed about the recent discovery of a human jawbone that they suspected might have been significant to the case of their missing son, Johnny.

Found Friday near Pleasant Hill, the jawbone was later identified by State Medical Examiner Thomas Bennett as belonging to someone 25 and 30 years of age and not to Gosch or missing newspaper carrier Eugene Martin.

"We had an absolutely stressful weekend wondering what was going on. It made us ill. We knew nothing until I read in the newspaper Monday morning that it couldn't be Johnny," said Noreen Gosch.

She said the incident "was typical," that authorities "have done very little in coordinating with us or communicating with us." She said on other occasions when human remains were found in the vicinity, the family hadn't been told or informed of subsequent developments.

"You don't know what this does ... not to know. The reason they're not telling us anything is probably because they're doing nothing," she said.

Tom Ruxlow, chief of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said the West Des Moines Police Department has been the liaison with the family since the youngster disappeared in that community.

Ruxlow said the family "has been kept up to date with things of significance, but we haven't had anything of significance."

Asked about progress of the investigation, Ruxlow said, "From time to time leads come up and we check them."

Noreen Gosch said there have been no meetings with the DCI and that she had never met Ruxlow nor discussed the case with him.

Lyle McKinney, West Des Moines police lieutenant, said, "If we would have come up with something that would have been connected to the investigation, we would have contacted the Gosch family. Rather than raise false hopes or cause any undue consternation, we didn't."

Johnny Gosch vanished Sept. 5, 1982, and Martin disappeared Aug. 12. Authorities say both were apparently abducted, but there have been no leads to indicate what happened to the boys or if the cases are connected.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, IowaDate: 11/27/84  
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Indexing:

7-1053 A - 258

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# Poll finds fear for safety of children on rise in Iowa

*First of three articles.*

By DAVID ELBERT

Register Staff Writer

Iowans' concerns about the safety of their children have increased dramatically during the past few years, a special Iowa Poll on child safety, sex crimes and pornography shows.

Two out of three adults now say young people are less safe today than they were five years ago in such everyday activities as walking to school, playing in a park and working before and after school.

They say children should not be allowed to walk to school by themselves until they are 10 years old.

## IOWA POLL

when most of them are in the fifth grade, and all should be fingerprinted when they enter kindergarten.

Much of their concern is a result of the mysterious disappearances of two Des Moines Sunday Register newspaper carriers in less than two years. Ninety-nine percent of Iowans say they have read or heard about Johnny Gosch of West Des Moines, who vanished on Sept. 5, 1982, and of Eugene Martin of Des Moines, who hasn't been seen since Aug. 12.

While the Gosch and Martin cases heightened concern, there are other reasons why parents have been herding preschoolers into government-fin-

A new round of allegations of abuse of students rocks the Iowa School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs. Details: 1B.

gerprint clinics and demanding criminal background checks on teachers, and why teachers have been alerting parents to the fact that suspicious persons have been sighted near schools.

### Succession of Incidents

During the last few years a succession of true stories has stunned once-trusting Iowans — preschoolers locked in wooden cages, a school counselor who exposed himself to students, day-care workers charged with child abuse and adult baby-sitters charged with crimes ranging from murder to forcing drugs and sex upon children barely old enough to walk.

The outcome, the poll finds, is that Iowans of all walks of life — from farm fields to factories to office buildings — share a gnawing concern about child safety.

Nearly nine out of 10 Iowa parents (86 percent) say they now are more strict and cautious in the supervision of their own children as a result of the kidnappings and child abuse cases, and many of those who say they are not more strict even feel the need to explain, "I have always been cautious."

Iowans, up to and including Gov.

## IOWA POLL

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1A and 11A  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 11/25/84

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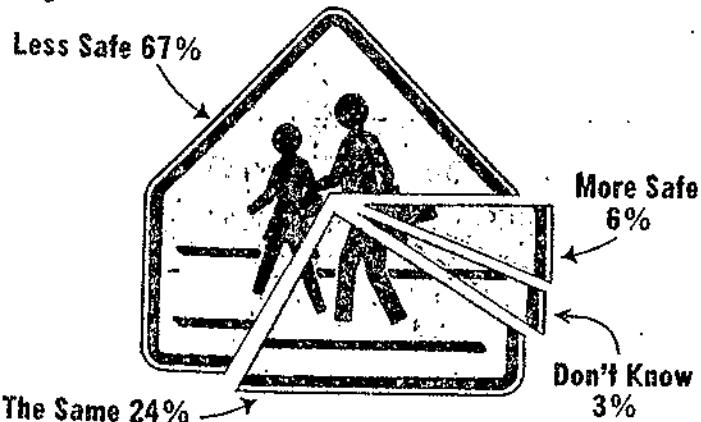
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REGISTER CHART

## THE IOWA POLL: CHILD SAFETY

### SAFETY - A VERY REAL CONCERN

Are young people more safe or less safe today than they were five years ago?



### FROM PLAYGROUND TO EMPLOYMENT

Average ages at which Iowans say children can go to the following alone or with other children:

ACTIVITY	Age	ACTIVITY	AGE
Walk to school	10	Go to the movies	12
Play in a park	11	Carry a morning newspaper	14
Go to the store	12	Work part-time	15

### PARENTS' WARNS: BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

Have recent kidnappings and child sex abuse cases made you more cautious or strict in the way you supervise your children?

#### IOWA PARENTS

YES	30%
NO	14%

# Iowans endorse fingerprint plans

**IOWA POLL**

Continued from Page One

Terry Branstad, have felt a need to do something, and on Wednesday, Branstad will convene the Governor's Conference on Children in Jeopardy at Drake University's Olmsted Center. The day-long conference, which has a \$20 registration fee, features panel discussions on child safety, child abuse prevention, the effects of poverty, drug abuse and prenatal and day-care problems.

## Four Safety Measures

Four measures likely to be discussed during the conference already are endorsed overwhelmingly by Iowans, the poll shows:

- Eighty-seven percent agree that all children should be fingerprinted by the state when they enter school for the first time.

- Ninety-one percent say criminal background checks should be required for teachers, day-care workers, youth workers and others who work regularly with children.

- Ninety-three percent want courses on the dangers of kidnapping and sexual abuse to be required at public schools.

- Eighty-nine percent say the state should publicly release the names of missing children within 48 hours of their disappearance.

Five years ago, such proposals

would have seemed strangely foreign to most Iowans, but much has changed in the 26 months that Johnny Gosch has been gone.

The baby boom generation, who are today's parents, once thought nothing of walking several blocks to kindergarten by themselves. But today, the average age at which parents say it is safe for children to walk to school alone is 10; many say that even when they're older, children should walk to school in groups, and some say the path to school is never safe, according to the poll.

## Higher Ages

Ages at which Iowans think it is safe for children to do various things without adult supervision are also higher than many would have thought necessary a generation ago.

The average age at which Iowans think it is safe for children to play in a park or go to a store alone is 11; go to the movies alone or with other children, 13; carry a morning newspaper route, 14; and take a part-time job that would involve working some after dark, 15.

The special poll, which was conducted Nov. 7-12, asked:

In general, do you feel it is more safe, less safe, or just as safe for young people today as it was five years ago when they are going to and from school, working before and after school jobs, playing outside and other activities?

Being more specific, at what age would you say it is safe to:

Allow children to walk to and from school by themselves?

Let children play in a park or play area without adult supervision?

Go to the store by themselves?

Go to the movies alone or with other children? Take a part-time job that would involve working some hours after dark?

Work as a morning newspaper carrier?

Various suggestions have been made concerning keeping children safe. Would you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

All children should be fingerprinted by the state when they enter school for the first time.

Teachers, day-care workers, youth workers and others who work regularly with children should be required to have a background check to find out if they have any previous criminal record.

Iowa schools should be required to hold classes for children to tell them of the dangers of kidnapping, sexual abuse and talking to strangers.

When children, under the age of 18, are missing for any reason, should the state of Iowa publicly release the names of those children within 48 hours of their disappearance?

Have you heard or read about the disappearance of two Des Moines newspaper carriers?

Have you become more strict or cautious in the way you supervise your children as a result of such events as kidnapping and sexual abuse?

The IOWA POLL, directed by Glenn Roberts, is based on 602 interviews with Iowans 18 years of age or older. Professionally trained interviewers contacted households with telephone numbers randomly selected by a computer, eliminating interviewers' choices in selecting persons to be interviewed.

Percentages based on the full poll sample are subject to a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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The IOWA POLL conforms to the standards of the National Council on Public Polls.

**MONDAY: Iowans' attitudes about sexual abuse of children.**

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1 and 5B

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: December 30, 1984

Edition: Sunday

# Child kidnap-murder rings myth, police say

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

The most chilling of all theories to explain how America's children mysteriously disappear is that some are stolen, then sold into an underworld for sex, and finally murdered.

It unfolds this way: Children are photographed at a schoolyard; the pictures are put into a catalog, and a "customer," usually a pedophile who prefers sex with children, makes a choice. Then a messenger returns to steal the youngster from a street corner or a shopping center or in the shadow of his home.

Ivan Barickman, vice president of a Minnesota-based anti-smut group called the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, believes there are abduction rings at work, and he said he has seen such a catalog kept by an international organization of pedophiles.

In several public appearances in Iowa, he has detailed the activity, saying abductors earn up to \$25,000 per child, that after millions are made in "trading" youngsters the children are killed, some of them before cameras. He claims to have seen one such "snuff" film.

Adding to the suspicion is Noreen Gosch, mother of missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, who said witnesses saw a "job order" on the seat of a car driven by a man last seen talking to her son. Gosch

believes her son, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, when he was 12, was kidnapped and sold to pedophiles.

Police officials said, however, that witnesses reported seeing something on the car seat but could not positively identify it.

The FBI and Canadian police have said no such organized child-abduction rings have been found. The assurances have done little to calm groups around the country, among them Des Moines' Stolen Children Are Reported Every Day (SCARED), that believe abductions by pedophiles go on under the noses of the law.

After accumulating a vast store of information about missing children in recent years, the same law enforcement agencies go a step further and say the evidence indicates the rings do not exist, that the abductions are more likely the work of people living in the neighborhood or the community.

"There have been many allegations brought to our attention, and we've investigated them," said Lane Bonner, FBI spokesman in Washington, D.C. "But we haven't found such an organization. We have no hard evidence or intelligence to show that there is an organized ring of people going around this country to kidnap children."

Statistics do not show that abduction rings are at work, Bonner said. In June 1983, the FBI's unidentified dead person file was begun to match unidentified bodies with the nation's

Title: Child kidnap-murder rings myth, police say

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Please turn to Page 5B

7-1053 Sub A-262

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FBI/DOJ

# 'Snuff films' never confirmed by FBI

## CHILDREN

Continued from Page One

35,000 missing persons, 70 percent of whom are juveniles. Bonner said the first match, a 23-year-old man, was made only recently. If there were more abductions and killings, there would probably be more matches, he suggested.

Currently, there are about 65 juveniles in the nation — including Gosch and Des Moines newspaper carrier Eugene Martin, 14, — who disappeared suspiciously and are still missing, according to FBI estimates. Most missing children are runaways who return within 30 to 60 days, says the FBI, but the percentage of missing children who are runaways isn't known.

Widespread attention to the possibility of child-abduction rings began in 1979 while law officers were investigating the disappearance of Etan Patz, 6, who vanished from the streets of New York City. Like Gosch and Martin, no trace of Patz has been found. In trying to locate the boy, law officers seized membership lists from the New York-based North American Man/Boy Love Association in a raid on the apartment of Bob Rhodes, a spokesman for the association.

In a recent telephone interview, Rhodes said the FBI also used the lists to find approximately 12 members in Minnesota, Michigan and Indiana, whom they questioned about the disappearance of Johnny Gosch.

"It was pure harassment," he said of the raid. "It came to nothing and shouldn't have been started. It was completely frivolous."

Said Rhodes: "There has been a great mythology built up around missing children, and when a case is solved it invariably turns out to be a local person."

In one of its bulletins, Rhodes' association headlined an article, "John Gosch - Phone Home!" and the group asked its members to urge runaways to call a national missing-child hotline. In the same issue, the group said members do not have to talk to the FBI, and it recommended that they not submit to questioning.

A New York City Police Department spokesman said the Patz disappearance remains under investigation, but nothing has been found that would indicate what happened to the youngster. The spokesman said the North American Man/Boy Love Association has not been linked to the child's disappearance.

Sgt. Ron Kirkpatrick, who heads the pornography task force of the Ontario (Canada) Provincial Police, said he has seen a "shopping catalog" of children. But, he added: "The children weren't abducted. They have already been used as sexual playthings by somebody, and they're saying here's one of my toys; they are available to you."

Said Kirkpatrick: "You can even get chartered flights to the Philippines to have sex with children. There are sex junkets just like there are gambling junkets. It's a sad state of affairs, but it exists."

The sexual disorders clinic at Balti-

more's Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine is the world's largest center for the study of pedophilia. Its co-director, psychiatrist Fred Berlin, said childhood prostitution often involves children who run away from home and then turn to prostitution to support themselves.

Dr. Berlin said violence among pedophiles is very rare. "One can certainly disagree with their views, but they are not people who advocate violence," he said. "It's very important that they not be seen as a bunch of child murderers and kidnappers. That's simply not the case in the vast majority of the cases."

At the Bloomington, Minn., office of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Barickman, the vice president, said the group was organized about a year ago by volunteers to protect children.

"We think that 80 percent of the people are abused as young children and that children have a right to grow up unmolested," he said.

Barickman said the pedophile abduction rings he has publicly spoken of were "only a hypothesis." He said he has no proof they exist.

"I was in Toronto at the Ontario Provincial Police headquarters when I saw the catalog, and I was dumb-

founded," he said. "They were mostly pictures of children playing or in shopping malls. If it wasn't spelled out what the catalogs were, it was [implied that] it was a mail-order service of children."

Barickman said he saw a "snuff film" — one that supposedly shows an actual murder — in a Minneapolis adult bookstore. "If it wasn't the real thing, then it looked very real," he said.

Barickman said the operation of the abduction rings — the picture-taking, the messengers, the abductions — were spelled out by an FBI behavioral scientist, Ken Lanning. But Bonner, the FBI press officer, said the agency would not make Lanning available for an interview because he had been approached too often by reporters.

"I have talked with him extensively, and he said there's no ring going around this country abducting children," Bonner said. "It has been blown out of proportion."

About so-called snuff films, Bonner said: "There's been a lot of hype about child pornography and abductions where there were actual murders on film. We don't know of any case where it actually happened. We found in every case these things were acted out."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: December 29, 1984

Edition:

Title: Second Chariton River search set today

Character:

or

Classification: 7-1145

Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:

# Second Chariton River search set today

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A two-mile stretch of the Chariton River will be searched by police and sheriff deputies today because a Centerville man insists that he saw someone under a river bridge carrying a youngster who looked like missing Des Moines newspaper carrier Eugene Martin.

The sighting was reported two months ago but police showed renewed interest Friday when the man, described as a high school teacher, said he wasn't satisfied with an earlier search.

The teacher, according to investigators, was driving at the time and made the sighting three miles east of Centerville on Iowa Highway 2.

EUGENE  
MARTIN

Appanoose County Deputy Sheriff Larry Robinson said Sue Martin, Martin's stepmother, was in Centerville recently "and we asked her if she was interested and she said she'd get back to us."

"But we began to think about it and said if she's concerned, we're concerned, and we decided to take a look," he said.

Robinson said the area surrounding the bridge was searched soon after the teacher's report but nothing was found.

He said in today's search Des Moines police and local deputies will sweep the river banks downstream for about two miles. If conditions permit, the river will be dragged.

Martin disappeared Aug. 12 from his paper route in south Des Moines, almost two years after Johnny Gosch disappeared from his West Des Moines paper route. Police have been

unable to link the cases or find a trace of the youngsters.

Meanwhile, David Eno, press secretary to Iowa Senator Roger Jepsen, said 5,000 reward posters picturing the missing boys were distributed before Christmas throughout New York City and upstate New York, and 4,000 more have been requested.

Posters have been hung in the New York Port Authority bus depot, in post offices in the city's five boroughs and in police stations and hospitals.

They've been circulated by cab drivers and letter carriers, by police officers who belong to Cops for Christ and by ex-convicts who are members of Prison Fellowship, a group organized by Watergate figure Charles Colson.

Eno said the posters also have been distributed along a 400-mile stretch of a highway extending from New York City to Montreal.

7-1053 Sub A 263

Q Q

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

# Tipoff letter on missing boy proves a hoax

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

An account relating the murder and secret burial of a newsboy, told in eerie detail in an unsigned letter to

The Des Moines Register, was created by a disturbed man who has no apparent connection to two missing Des Moines area newspaper carriers, investigators said Monday.

In explaining the carefully typed letter, West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney said the writer, whom he would only say was middle-aged and from Des Moines, wanted to create renewed interest in the baffling cases.

There were few facts in the account, McKinney said, although the supposed burial site was found southeast of Indianola by two Register employees who followed the letter's detailed directions. McKinney said law officers have no plans to dig at the site "because we don't think there's anything there."

When the letter, postmarked from Sidney, was received at the newspaper Jan. 4, officials hoped it might break open the baffling cases of Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, and Aug. 12, 1984, respectively, while preparing to deliver the Register.

The letter told of a small old man who was driving a car on a September Sunday morning when he became lost and stopped in the west suburb of a city to ask a newspaper carrier for directions. It was an apparent description of Gosch, who disappeared near his West Des Moines home shortly after he talked to a man in his 30s who had stopped to ask directions.

## Letter's Story

The letter related that during the conversation, the man became angered and pulled a sawed-off broom handle from the car, struck the youngster and the "rabbit punch effect" ended the boy's life.

The letter said: "It was an accident. The little old man loved children. He had intended only to discipline the boys. The little man decided he could not leave the body. He believed the death was an accident. He removed the boy's body himself."

The letter said the man strapped the youngster into the car with a seat belt, put a baseball cap on the boy's head, and drove unnoticed along empty streets and highways to Indianola. The account said the man then drove past huge silos, over a bridge and down a winding gravel road, where he stopped and then carried the body over a fence to near a small spring. After digging a shallow grave, "The old man spread newspapers over the body and covered it with soil. He prayed for the boy and the family," the letter said.

"In the confusion of his desire to be on his way, his desire to eliminate the consequences of the accident, and his belief that he had sincerely wished the boy well, the little old man concluded that he could accord the paperboy a proper burial."

## Visits Described

The letter also said the old man visited the grave, marked by flat concrete blocks, several times and that the man had died in 1984.

If the account of the murder was difficult to believe, the detailed description of the burial site appeared real. It suggested to some people that the anonymous writer may have been involved the boy's disappearance and wanted to lead investigators to the grave because he was troubled by what happened.

But McKinney said the letter's account was similar to one given to him in June by a Des Moines man. He said investigators questioned the man over the weekend, and the man admitted sending the letter to The Register.

"It was one of those sympathetic things," McKinney said. "He saw recently that police took another look at an alleged sighting of Eugene Martin near Centerville, and he thought that by sending the letter he would give the case another shot in the arm."

The man, McKinney said, had been despondent over the recent death of his father and had been receiving counseling. He said the man had been to the burial site described in the let-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 1/15/85

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053 Sub A-  
Q 2

M  
FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosch family pressure police to search at site near Indianola

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

John and Noreen Gosch said Tuesday they want police to search a site southeast of Indianola to determine whether their missing son, Johnny, is buried there.

If authorities refuse to do so, Noreen Gosch said, she may lead a party there and dig in the area herself.

The area was described in an anonymous letter, sent to The Des Moines Register recently, which related a story about an elderly man who killed a newspaper carrier and buried him in a shallow grave. Police said they knew who wrote the account and declared it was a hoax.

The letter didn't mention Gosch by name but the circumstances described in it resembled those that surrounded the youngster's disappearance Sept. 5, 1982.

"I think they should do everything they can to see what's there, including putting a probe down to make certain there's nothing," said Noreen Gosch.

Don Martin, father of missing newspaper carrier Eugene Martin, also urged a search saying, "There's no reason it shouldn't be checked out thoroughly."

West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney repeated an earlier statement and said there won't be a search.

"With the information we have right now we have no reason to look," he said. McKinney had described the letter writer as emotionally disturbed and said there was little truth in the account.

"Currently, the matter is closed," McKinney said. He said police won't disclose the location "because it's private property."

Gosch said she may obtain the landowner's permission to conduct a search.

"We don't want to leave anything undone," she said. "This is another example of negligence by the police."

Gosch said she has signed documents from four neighbors who say that police didn't interview them shortly after Johnny Gosch disappeared.

"You ask yourself how complete is the investigation when you find that they didn't talk to people who live near where Johnny disappeared," she said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 12

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 1/16/85

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;

Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

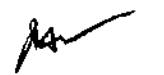
Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053 Sub A-273

Q A



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# Gosches charge W.D.M. police with negligence

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Noreen and John Gosch, in a written complaint to the West Des Moines City Council, have charged the West Des Moines Police Department with negligence in the investigation of the disappearance of their son, Johnny.

"This case was not treated or investigated properly from day one," the Gosches say.

Mayor George Mills, who said he received the complaint Friday, defended the police, adding, "I've been satisfied with the investigation to date."

The complaint is the latest in a running battle between the couple and West Des Moines police. Shortly after their son disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, the Gosches charged that the police were slow in responding and had considered their son a runaway.

In their letter, the Gosches claim there were neighbors who were up at the time their son disappeared who weren't interviewed and should have been. "We've gathered the signed statements to prove the police did not do this," they said.

Letters accompanying the complaint were signed by Susan Ginsberg, 1009 Forty-fifth St.; Gerry Archambault, 1012 Forty-fifth St.; Peter and Diane Ranallo, 1005 Forty-fifth St.; and Catherine and Gregg Cudworth, 1008 Forty-fifth St.

West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney, who has directed the investigation, said police interviewed residents in sight of Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane where Gosch disappeared. Those who signed the letters live a block away.

"I'm not armed with facts that were available at the time because I wasn't involved from the beginning," McKinney said. "But I'm sure that after 2½ years if anyone had information that was important to the case they would have come forward by now."

The Gosches said that Chief Rick Carson, who succeeded former chief Orval Cooney in August 1983, "has never made one attempt to even meet with us on the case."

They noted that Des Moines Police Chief William Moulder meets regularly with the family of Eugene Martin to discuss the case involving the disappearance of Martin Aug. 12, 1984.

Carson said the Gosch case has been handled by McKinney, and all matters pertaining to the case have been referred to him.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3A

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 1/19/85

Edition: Morning

UNSUB:

Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-Sub A-275

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b7C

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOI/PA

DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

FOI/PA# 1615669-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 10

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Page 25 ~ b5; b6; b7C;

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

*The Lincoln Star*

Page 23

7-17-85

Date:

Edition:

Title:

Character: 7

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

# Gosch name found on \$100

## Bill sent to Des Moines police for handwriting analysis

By Kathryn Haugstatter  
of The Lincoln Star

A \$100 bill with a note purportedly from Johnny Gosch, a missing Des Moines, Iowa, newspaper carrier, was turned over to the Lincoln police department Monday.

Lt. Lyle Roberts said the bill was given to a Lincoln man, William Strauss, when he cashed a check Monday morning at Gateway Bank at the Gateway Shopping Center. Roberts said the bill was sent to the West Des Moines police department for handwriting analysis.

Lincoln police Lt. Lee Wagner said the message was written in ball point pen on the face of the bill near the Treasury seal. The words, "I'm Alive, Johnny Gosch" were written in cursive.

Gosch was 12 when he disappeared the morning of Sept. 5, 1982, as he was about to begin his newspaper route. His parents, Noreen and John Gosch, appeared in Washington, D.C., on national television last Wednesday to report the finding of a \$1 bill with a message from their son.

"I'm Alive," was printed in lead pencil on the left side of the face of the \$1 bill. The signature below it, also in lead pencil was "Johnny Gosch".

Noreen Gosch said that a Sioux City, Iowa, woman sent the \$1 bill to her, "as one mother to another," and requested anonymity. Gosch said a handwriting expert examined the writing and told her it was authentic.

Since then, Gosch said, six or seven \$1 bills with similar messages have turned up. Although she hopes the \$100 bill found in Lincoln is legitimate, Gosch said she believes the others are bogus.

"They must be written by people who do not have a deep degree of sensitivity

for another person's pain," she said. "The bogus messages are only complicating the investigation."

Also complicating the investigation are the law enforcement agencies who are supposed to be helping, Gosch said. The handling of the \$100 bill found in Lincoln was an example.

Gosch said a reporter told her about the bill found in Lincoln when he called her on Tuesday for a news story. By mid-afternoon Tuesday, no law enforcement official had called to tell her about the bill.

She said she and her husband were forced to turn to private agencies because of their frustrations dealing with the FBI and others.

Gosch said she has made arrangements through her senator to turn the

bill over to the Secret Service, which is a branch of the Treasury Department.

"We're going to pull rank as parents," she said. "This is our son's life. We're not going to play games anymore."

Gosch said the fact that the note in Lincoln was on a \$100 bill gave her some hope that it was not another in the series of hoaxes played since the first bill was found. Federal authorities said they planned to collect and analyze the authenticity of the messages.

Johnny Gosch was delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register near his West Des Moines home when he disappeared. Two years later, on Aug. 12, 1984, another Des Moines paperboy, Eugene Martin, then 13, vanished as he began his newspaper route near his home on the city's south side.

7-1053-Sub A-311

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 18 1985	
OMAHA	

b6  
b7C

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## Gosches say they've found note from son

By JOHN HYDE

Of The Register's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The parents of missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch said



Wednesday they have received a dollar bill with the boy's signature and the words "I am alive" printed on it.

At a press conference held in the U.S. Capitol, John and Noreen Gosch said the dollar was found about one month ago

by a woman who received it in change at a Sioux City supermarket.

The Gosches said they have had the bill analyzed by three handwriting experts and are convinced the signature is genuine. John Gosch, the boy's father, said discovery of the bill has provided "a source of additional hope" that Johnny is still alive.

The parents also said they have assembled approximately \$400,000 in reward money and would be willing to negotiate a ransom. An additional \$125,000 reward has been posted by The Des Moines Register and Iowa businesses.

### Two Missing Carriers

Johnny disappeared in 1982 while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register in his West Des Moines neighborhood. He was then 12 years old. Another Register carrier, Eugene Martin, vanished in 1984 while delivering the newspaper and remains missing.

Also present at the press conference was Bill Coates, a Treasury Department employee, who said the dollar bill bearing the message was in the possession of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve as of July 25, 1984. Sometime after that date, Coates said, it was distributed to a bank in one of six north-central states.

Coates said the department had no way of determining to which state the bill was sent, or where it had been since then. "I wish we could do more," he said. Coates assisted the Gosches at the request of Iowa's senators.

The Gosches said the bill had not been turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other law enforcement authorities but would be made available after the press conference.

GOSCH

\* Please turn to Page 10A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Page 1A and 10A  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 7/11/85

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;  
Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-Sub A-319

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED 79
JUL 13 1985	
FBI - DES MOINES	

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# Grassley pleads with abductor to show mercy

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page One*

ence. John Gosch said he felt the FBI had been negligent in following leads and the family wished to learn as much as possible before relinquishing the bill.

## Woman Not Identified

The Gosches said they had made no attempt to interview the supermarket clerk who handled the bill and have had no further contact with the woman who received it in change. They declined to identify the woman.

The parents again pleaded for the boy's release or some word about his fate and reiterated their promise to drop efforts to prosecute his abductors

If Johnny is released unharmed, "All we want is our boy back," said Noreen Gosch.

Both parents again were critical of efforts by law enforcement agencies to locate the boy. "We do not feel they are giving us even one-tenth the amount of help given to the hostages on the TWA plane in Beirut," said John Gosch.

Both of Iowa's senators, Charles Grassley and Tom Harkin, attended the press conference and spoke to reporters.

"Organizing a search reaching far beyond the Iowa borders, John and Noreen Gosch have unhappily become experts in the sordid underworld of child kidnapping, sexual abuse and ex-

ploitation," Grassley said. "At my request, the Gosches have outlined their gruesome discoveries before Senate committees. Their investigators, financed at great personal sacrifice, have described auction houses offering children to the highest bidder, child pornographic studios and prostitution rings, functioning with striking coordination and sophistication."

"Today we hope young Johnny has been spared the worst of the nightmare uncovered by his parents," Grassley added. "We hope Johnny can hear our voices and gain courage and hope. We hope his abductor, or abductors, also hear our voices. We plea for them to show some trace of human kindness and compassion."

Grassley urged passage of the Child Victims Rights Act, which he introduced earlier this year. Among other things, the bill would put child pornography laws under the Racketeering and Influence of Corrupt Organization statutes, increase penalties for crimes against children, require the attorney general to report on ways to protect children who testify in court cases, and provide John or Noreen Gosch with a seat on the board of the National Missing Children's Center.

Harkin said "missing children present an enormous challenge to this country, and one that must be met." He and Grassley organized the press conference, at the Gosches' request, because they wished to help the parents in every way possible, Harkin explained.



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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 1M and 6M  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 7/12/85  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7-1053  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

## Gosches bypass police in search of son

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A long and frustrating search for missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch has nudged authorities into yet another troubling corner: Can the parents of the youngster legally bypass police and cut a deal with kidnappers to get their son back?

Noreen and John Gosch of West Des Moines posed that problem on Wednesday when they went before a national audience in Washington, D.C., and said they were ready to pay up to \$100,000 in "reward" money in exchange for the boy who has been missing almost three years. They promised not to file charges against any kidnapper if a deal was made.

"The main purpose of our plea," Noreen Gosch said Thursday, "was to let the people who have Johnny



JOHNNY  
GOSCH



NOREEN  
GOSCH



JOHN  
GOSCH

know that we want to negotiate to get him back, and we're willing to abandon any efforts to learn of their identity or to see justice done. We just want to get our boy back and walk away from this issue.

"We want them to understand that they will find no threat from us," she said.

By late Thursday, the Gosches had gotten several phone calls, none apparently from any abductors.

Polk County Attorney James Smith, who would be charged with prosecuting any abductor, said, "I'm not sure that a deal that the

Gosches make, or anybody makes, is really legally binding.

"If we have sufficient information to file a criminal charge, we make that decision. We normally try to take the family's and the victim's feelings and the police's attitude into account, but we have in the past filed criminal charges over the victim's objections. It's our role to protect society from criminal activity. Although there is a victim, it's an offense against society," he said.

Smith said he didn't want to say whether the deal suggested by the Gosches was legally possible or impossible.

"I understand the frustration they have, and I understand their willingness to do everything. We're willing to do what we can to try to get him back. That's the most important thing right now," he said.

"I don't want the abductors to

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 6M

7-1053-Sub A-320

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 13 1985	
FBI - OMAHA	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials are present on the stamp]*

## Gosches hope to 'cinch' son's return

**GOSCH**

*(Continued from Page 1M)*

I think we are going to file charges or we're not going to file charges. We have to cross that bridge when we get to it," he added.

Noreen Gosch said she and her husband were "exercising our parental authority" in appealing for their son.

"We've said to them to contact us and then we'll make a deal. If [the authorities] don't like it and are not too comfortable about it, that's too bad. It's our son, not theirs. We're willing to do anything to get him back."

The \$400,000 would come from a pool of reward pledges made available to the Gosches by several individuals and companies, she said. Not included is a \$125,000 reward offered by a number of companies and The Des Moines Register for information leading to Gosch, who disappeared in September 1982, or Eugene Martin, who vanished in August 1984. Both were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register when they disappeared.

Noreen Gosch said she was "hopeful" the latest appeal "will cinch it." Gosch's disappearance, as was Martin's, is an utter mystery. There have been no ransom notes, not a shred of information pointing to how the boys disappeared. Investigators have said they have no evidence indicating the youngster is dead or alive.

The Gosches said Wednesday they recently had received a dollar bill from Sioux City that they say contained the boy's signature and the message, "I am alive." A handwriting analyst, whom the Gosches declined to identify, determined that the signature was authentic, they said.

"We got it from a woman about a month ago who got it while shopping at a Sioux City supermarket. When she got home she went through the change and found it. She sent it to us because she thought we should have it," Noreen Gosch said.

Noreen Gosch declined to identify the woman saying she didn't want her to be harassed. The bill hasn't been turned over to authorities.

Sioux City Police Lt. Mike Larson said, "We know nothing about it. That's n-o-t-h-i-n-g." He said police there had made some inquiries but learned nothing.

West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney, who has led the police investigation, said he hasn't seen the bill and didn't want to comment. "Our concern is the safe return of the boy. We'll deal with other matters later," he said.

Gosch said she has kept the bill because the authorities "have screwed up and messed up what we've tried to do before."

"When you give them something you never hear about it again," she said. "We've decided to get as much information about this as we can now before we turn it over."

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 34  
 Omaah World Herald  
 7/18/85  
 Morning

Title: JOHNNY GOSCH  
 KIDNAPPING  
 OO: OMAHA

Character:  
 or  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

## Twisted Minds Exploit Gosch Tragedy

What could be more cruel than a hoax directed at the family of a missing child?

John and Noreen Gosch of Des Moines, whose son, Johnny, has been missing since Sept. 5, 1982, have reason to believe that some warped person — or persons — has used them as the target of a hoax.

A \$1 bill recently surfaced with the handwritten message, "I am alive. Johnny Gosch." Mr. and Mrs. Gosch believe — and three handwriting analysts concur — that the message was indeed written by their missing son.

Then another \$1 bill turned up in Grinnell, Iowa. It carried the message: "I'm Alive, Johnny Gosch." Mrs. Gosch says she doubts that the second note was written by her son.

Still another message, similar to the others, was found in Lincoln Monday on a \$100 bill. Police and Mrs. Gosch say this note is also probably a hoax.

"I think there will be some bogus bills showing up" around Iowa, Mrs. Gosch said after the note turned up in Grinnell. "I think we'll be seeing a few kooks come out with their versions."

If tricksters are behind the notes, they are creating added pain for her family, Mrs. Gosch said Tuesday. "I wonder how they would feel if someone swooped into their neighborhood and took someone they loved."

"Kook" is too kind an expression for someone who would exploit the agony of others for his own twisted amusement.

7-1053-A-335

7/18/85	7/18/85
7/18/85	7/18/85

JL/EP

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6-L Sunday World-Herald

Omaha, Nebraska

Date: 8/11/85

Edition:

Title:

Character: 7-1053-

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Missing Carrier's Trail Still Cold a Year Later

Des Moines (AP) — One year later, young Eugene Martin still is missing.

An initial flood of tips, countless searches by volunteers and police and even predictions from psychics have failed to bring authorities any closer to finding the boy who vanished Aug. 12, 1984, from his newspaper route.

"We're no closer now than a year ago. We get (reports of) sightings. It's basically at a standstill. There's nothing developing," said Des Moines Police Sgt. Jim Toma, who's in charge of the investigation.

That was hardly the case when Martin disappeared from his route early on a Sunday, just five days before his 14th birthday.

A hotline was set up by police and manned around the clock. Police logged hundreds of reports of sightings, and friends, neighbors and others spent weeks walking across Iowa farm land and wooded areas for clues.

The case, being treated as an abduction, is hauntingly similar to the disappearance of Johnny Gosch, who was 12 years old when he vanished from his West Des Moines newspaper route nearly two years earlier.

However, authorities have not established a link between the two cases.

#### \$125,000 Reward Offered

Gosch also has yet to be found, and a reward fund totaling some \$125,000 has been established by various businesses for information leading to the recovery of either youth.

Gosch's parents, John and Noreen, have gained national attention in their search for their son.

They have appeared on televised talk shows and have been to Washington to testify before Congress on the plight of missing children. The family also raised money through the sale of "Help Find Johnny Gosch" candy bars to help pay for private detectives.



Martin



Gosch

7-1053-343

SEARCHED	INDEXED	66
SERIALIZED	FILED	87C
AUG 12 1985		
FBI - OMAHA		
OK		

back to be by the phone," Martin said. "I do think he's alive somewhere, mainly because we haven't heard otherwise. I want to believe he's alive and coming home. I'm just sitting back, hoping and praying."

Sue Martin said she is "more paranoid" about the other children.

"I have a little girl — she's 6 — and I don't let her out of my sight. I'm always looking over my shoulder. I've got a fence and a padlock around the house, and we keep the windows shut all the time — even when it gets hot," she said.

"If someone's in my yard, I better know them! I wouldn't hesitate shooting anyone!"

Sue Martin said she has almost given up hope that Eugene is alive.

"Maybe he is out there. It's like you're in limbo continually, up and down and it doesn't stop," she said. "It's terrible to say, but it would be better knowing the worst."

#### Fired Detective

Janis Martin said her family plans to have a small birthday celebration for him. "He's gone, but he's still alive in our hearts and minds," she said.

Don and Sue Martin last year hired a private investigator, a former Des Moines police officer, to help find the boy. But Martin said he fired the man because it was too expensive and the investigator didn't turn up any leads.

There have been glimmers of hope.

About six months ago, police announced they were looking for two men they wanted for questioning — they insisted the men were not suspects — as well as releasing the description of a car supposedly driven by the men. Police said that lead fizzled.

Last month, a Seattle, Wash., truck driver reported seeing the Martin boy in the company of a man and a woman traveling in a red Mercury Marquis auto with California license plates.

And about two weeks ago, Sue Martin said the family received an anonymous telephone call from a man in Tucson, Ariz., who thought he saw Gene with another boy.

Through persistent criticism of local law enforcement efforts, the Gosches have managed to keep their name — and their son's — in the news media for the past three years.

Not so with Donald and Janis Martin, who were married 13 years before they divorced a few months before their son vanished.

Martin works at a warehouse, while Janis Martin has moved to the city's east side with three of her children.

#### Fence, Padlock

Both say they don't keep in contact much, and Janis Martin expresses bitterness toward Martin's second wife, Sue, who returns the feeling. Despite the animosity, however, all three agree the boy's abduction has changed their lives.

"We used to go out every weekend, but now if we go out we come right

Like the Gosches, the Martins express disgust with the authorities.

"They're no farther along than day or two," Sue Martin said. "As far as we're concerned, they're not even looking."

Don Martin said the FBI has been "fee-hawing" around on the latest tips, a claim disputed by the FBI office in Omaha, which oversees operations in Iowa and Nebraska.

"We have sightings of Martin and

Gosch almost on a daily basis," said FBI spokesman Charles Wiley. "We run those down with every available manpower and womenpower to make sure it doesn't check out. We would like to find young Martin as well as Gosch. Whenever you get information, no matter how nebulous, we run it down."

Asked if the FBI was any closer to solving the case, Wiley said, "Well, we haven't found the kid. There's not a whole lot else to say."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1A and 10A  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, IowaDate: 8/14/85  
Edition: MorningTitle: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIMCharacter: KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Gosches may end active hunt for son after swindle

By NICK LAMBERTO and FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writers

The FBI has issued an arrest warrant for a 19-year-old Michigan man who allegedly defrauded the family of Johnny Gosch out of \$11,000 by promising to find the missing Des Moines Register newspaper carrier, federal officials said Tuesday.

Noreen Gosch, the boy's mother, said later that the FBI's announcement had placed her family's lives in jeopardy and that she and her husband, John, were scaling back their efforts to find their son. She said they were "withdrawing" from the active search and would only continue "as the leads come in."

FBI officials said Robert Herman Meier II of Saginaw, Mich., also known as Samuel Forbes Dakota, has been charged with wire fraud after al-

NOREEN  
GOSCH

legedly obtaining \$11,000 from the Gosches after a secret meeting at the Kansas City, Mo., airport July 14.

Agent David Oxler said in a federal court affidavit accompanying the fraud charge that Noreen Gosch told FBI agents on July 26 that she had received a telephone call from a person claiming he could return her son in exchange for a fee.

Oxler said the Kansas City meeting was arranged, and a man identifying himself as Dakota told the Gosches there that Johnny Gosch had been kidnapped by Hell's Angels motorcycle club members and was being held in Mexico City, Mexico, by a man named Enrico Gonzales. Gonzales was said to have bought the youth for \$5,000, Oxler said.

Dakota asked for money, and the Gosches later wired him four \$2,500 cashier's checks and a \$1,000 money

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 10A

7-1053-A-349

79 79

# Gosch family 'scared to death' now

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page One*  
order from the Help Find Johnny Gosch Fund, Oxler said federal investigators were told that payment was to be followed by \$100,000, which was to be wired to a Bahama bank account by the Gosches.

Noreen Gosch told FBI agents that she received a phone call from Dakota on July 24 saying that the rescue attempt in Mexico had failed and that three of Dakota's associates and Gonzales' wife and son had been killed in a shoot-out. Dakota told Noreen Gosch that Gonzales had fled to Dearborn, Mich., where another rescue attempt would be made, Oxler said.

The Gosches were to travel to Cleveland, Ohio, on July 28 to get their son, Oxler said. Two days before that, Noreen Gosch telephoned the FBI. The Gosches did not go to Cleveland, but agents were sent to the site of the exchange, which did not take place, Oxler said.

Sunday, FBI agents located Meier, and he admitted contacting the Gosches by telephone and meeting with them in Missouri in July, Oxler said. Meier also admitted receiving money to be used for locating their son, Oxler said.

## No Shoot-Out

But the agent said an FBI investigation found that no shoot-out matching the one described to the Gosches had occurred in Mexico City.

It was not immediately clear how the FBI found Meier or why he was permitted to leave after being questioned.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph

Beck of Des Moines said of the Michigan man: "There is no indication in the FBI investigation that Meier knew, had seen, or had any information concerning the disappearance of Johnny Gosch," who vanished Sept. 5, 1982, as he started to deliver his Sunday Register newspaper route.

Noreen Gosch told reporters Tuesday that Meier had called her after the family's nationwide offer several days earlier to pay a \$400,000 ransom for their son. "He told us about a scar Johnny had on his ankle and about a vehicle that was in the area when Johnny disappeared," she said. "We don't know where he got that information, but it sounded like good information because it was true."

## Knew of Scar

The Gosches agreed to pay the \$11,000 in "up front money" after he told them about their son's scar and the vehicle, Noreen Gosch said. The couple met with him at an airport coffee shop for two hours.

Noreen Gosch said the FBI's announcement of the Meier arrest warrant had put the family in jeopardy. "He told us not to go to the police. He said he wouldn't hesitate to blow us away, and we wouldn't see Johnny alive again," she said.

"I can't take it anymore," she said at a press conference in the family's home at 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines. She said she had requested police protection for her family.

Gosch said the FBI's announcement was "dirty pool" and that dealing with the agency was "becoming more than I can bear. We cannot fight the FBI anymore."

She added: "So I have another an-

nouncement to make. It's with reluctance that [once Meier is in custody], that is the end of our search for Johnny. We are pulling out. We cannot continue raising the money it takes" to keep the investigation active, she said.

## 'Scared to Death'

"The money he wanted up front was part of a ransom, not a fee. The mention of the Hell's Angels by the FBI has put our whole family in danger. We're scared to death," she said.

"We notified the FBI about the time and place of the exchange and cooperated with them. But when we didn't receive a phone call we were supposed to from the man, we didn't fly to Cleveland."

During the Kansas City airport meeting, John Gosch handed Meier a TWA flight schedule and surreptitiously obtained his fingerprints. Gosch later put the pamphlet in a plastic bag and gave it to the FBI.

Noreen Gosch said the \$11,000 has not been recovered. "But, frankly, I don't care," she said. "It came from selling candy bars and having garage sales. We may have valid information out of this. I'd do it again."

Gosch said she did not know if Meier's claims were true that her son was taken to Mexico. "But there was a lot worth checking into," she said.

A letter the Gosches received from Meier was turned over to the FBI Friday, Oxler said. In it, Meier repeated part of the information he told the Gosches in July, the agent said. There also was a note with the letter stating that Meier had died from the gunshot wounds supposedly suffered in Mexico, Oxler said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Omaha World-Herald

Omaha, NE

Date: 8/14/85

Edition: Sunrise

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 7-1053-

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

## Mrs. Gosch 'Pulling Out' of Search for Son

Des Moines (AP) — The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch said Tuesday that the FBI was pulling a "grandstand" move by announcing an arrest warrant for a Michigan man allegedly involved in the disappearance of her son. She said she is "pulling out" of the search.

James F. Ahearn, special agent in charge of the FBI office for Iowa and Nebraska, said Robert Herman Meier II, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., also known as Samuel F. Dakota, was being sought on a charge of fraud by wire.

FBI spokesman Charles R. Wiley said Meier is accused of taking \$10,000 from the Gosch boy's parents, asking for \$100,000 more and promising to return their son, who was last seen Sept. 5, 1982, as he was about to begin his newspaper route.

Noreen Gosch, who, with her husband, John, has long been critical of authorities' efforts to find her son, said she was upset with the FBI because it released the information without telling her family.

She said Tuesday's announcement was designed to "put them in a good light. It's a grandstand move."

"I can understand the press release to flush him out," Mrs. Gosch said, "but they left out some of the details, and they didn't tell us they were releasing this."

"The FBI also failed to say in their release ... that the man had information they and the police didn't," she said. "Some of that information involved another vehicle that was used" in the abduction.

She said Meier told them that there

were three others involved in the abduction of her son.

"Dakota described a scar on Johnny's ankle that no one else knew about. He came to us with good, credible information."

However, "He made threats against our life if we contacted authorities," she said.

Mrs. Gosch said that the FBI's release was "dirty pool," and that dealing with the agency was "becoming more than I can bear. We cannot fight the FBI anymore."

"So I have another announcement to make. It's with reluctance that once this lead is resolved (once Meier is in custody), that is the end of our search for Johnny. We are pulling out. We cannot continue raising the money it takes" to keep the investigation active.

7-1053-Sub A-358

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FBI - OMAHA	

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FBI/DOJ

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
**13 Omaha World-Herald**  
 Omaha, NE  
**8/14/85**  
 Date:  
 Edition: **Sunrise**

Title:

Character:  
 or  
 Classification: **7-1053-**  
 Submitting Office:

Indexing:

## Suspect Sought in Gosch Fund Bilking

By David Thompson

World-Herald Staff Writer

The FBI is looking for a 19-year-old man who allegedly bilked \$10,000 from the fund set up to help find Johnny Gosch, a Des Moines boy who disappeared nearly three years ago.

Robert Herman Meier II of Saginaw, Mich., allegedly told the parents of Johnny Gosch that the child had been kidnapped by the Hell's Angels and was being held in Mexico City, according to a report from U.S. Attorney Richard Turner of Des Moines and James F. Ahearn Jr., agent in charge of the FBI's Nebraska-Iowa office in Omaha.

Dakota

They said Meier, who gave only the name "Dakota," offered to find the

youngster and return him to his parents if he was paid \$10,000 in cash.

After the rescue, he said, he would want \$100,000 wired to a bank account in the Bahamas, Ahearn and Turner said.

Meier has been charged with wire fraud by obtaining money through false pretenses, according to documents filed in U.S. District Court in Des Moines.

Ahearn and Turner gave this description of what occurred:

Meier telephoned Noreen Gosch, the boy's mother, July 14 in Des Moines and offered to rescue and return the child. Later the same day, the parents met him at an airport in Missouri and paid him the cash.

Mrs. Gosch said she received a telephone call July 24 from "Dakota,"

who said that the mission had failed and that three of his confederates had been killed. The wife and son of the man allegedly holding the Gosch boy also were killed in a shoot-out, "Dakota" told Mrs. Gosch.

### Conversation

"Dakota" told the Gosches he would have their son four days later, July 28, in Cleveland. Mrs. Gosch contacted the FBI July 26 and told them of the conversation.

The Gosches did not go to Cleveland. The FBI staked out the place where the child was to have been turned over, but no exchange took place.

The FBI later questioned Meier, also known as Samuel F. Dakota, and he

7-1053-Sub A-359

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FBI - OMAHA	

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acknowledged that he had received \$10,000 from the Gosches. He was not arrested at the time because agents did not know whether the U.S. attorney had enough evidence to charge Meier, FBI spokesman Charles Wiley said in Omaha. A warrant was issued after further investigation.

#### St. Louis

During the interview, Meier said the Gosches paid him money at the St. Louis airport, Ahearn said.

Mrs. Gosch told FBI agents that the cash exchange had occurred at Kansas City International Airport but later said it took place in St. Louis, Wiley said.

Ahearn said FBI agents have determined that there was no shoot-out in Mexico that would match the description given by Meier.

The Gosches also turned over to the FBI a letter from Meier in which he related the details of the Mexico City shoot-out.

#### Interview

The parents also gave authorities a note from a man who said he was a friend of Meier. The note said Meier later died of gunshot wounds suffered during the rescue attempt. Authorities said, however, that they interviewed Meier several days after the Gosches turned the note over to the FBI.

Johnny Gosch, then 12 years old, disappeared the morning of Sept. 5, 1982, as he was about to begin his newspaper route in West Des Moines.

The investigation into the disappearance of the Gosch boy is continuing, and every effort is being made to locate the individual or individuals responsible, Wiley said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/15/85

Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 7-1053-

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

# Johnny Gosch alive, fugitive tells reporter

## Meier fails to turn himself in to FBI

By BLAIR KAMIN

Register Staff Writer

A Michigan man suspected of defrauding the family of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch failed to carry out a promise to surrender to FBI agents Wednesday and was still staying at a Canadian motel across the river from Detroit, Mich.

An FBI spokesman said U.S. law officers had no jurisdiction to arrest the man, Robert Herman Meier II, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., while he was in Canada. The spokesman said that the FBI had initiated steps that would allow Canadian authorities to take Meier into custody and return him from Windsor, Ontario, to the United States.

No arrest had been made as of early Wednesday night.

The FBI announced Tuesday that it had issued a warrant for Meier's arrest, charging him with defrauding John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines by promising to find their son, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while preparing to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register. Meier was accused of obtaining \$11,000 from the Gosches after a secret meeting at the Kansas City, Mo., airport on July 14.

Meier told the Windsor Star newspaper this week that he would surrender to FBI agents in Detroit at noon Wednesday. But he changed his mind,

7-1053-A-360

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FBI/DOJ	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

He claimed that a group of Mexicans and Americans was holding Gosch's detailed information given to the FBI that the Hell's Angels motorcycle club was involved in the boy's disappearance.

He expressed fear that the reports of the Hell's Angels' involvement would endanger his own life. "I could as well take a gun to my head and blow myself out," he said.

Meier said he was interviewed Sunday by the FBI in Saginaw, but wasn't arrested because agents had not obtained a warrant. He said they called back and said they wanted to meet again.

"That clued me," Meier said, adding that "they didn't move quick enough because it was nine hours after I was supposed to meet them that I crossed the border, and I crossed the border without any problems."

His story about Johnny Gosch's whereabouts was greeted with deep skepticism by the FBI. "He's never been in Mexico," growled one FBI agent in the district office in Omaha.

Noreen Gosch said she wasn't sure about Meier's story but that he had

apparently after being advised to obtain legal advice first.

Meier spoke with FBI agents after arriving in Windsor, according to Robert Keane, an FBI agent in Des Moines. Keane said agents in Michigan "were trying to negotiate his turning himself over." Keane said he did not know who initiated those negotiations.

FBI agents initially located Meier Sunday in Saginaw, where, according to agent David Oxler of Des Moines, he admitted contacting the Gosches by telephone and meeting with them in Missouri in July. Meier also admitted receiving money to be used for locating their son, Oxler said.

Keane said agents interviewed Meier in Saginaw. Asked why Meier was permitted to leave after questioning, Keane said FBI agents needed a warrant before they could arrest him.

Monday, the day after being questioned by the FBI, Meier checked in at the Canadiana Motel in Windsor, according to desk clerk Persa Samanc. She said Meier registered under his own name and was driving a motorcycle. Wednesday evening, she said, Meier told her he was going out for dinner and a haircut. His motorcycle

remained in front of his room, she said.

Noreen Gosch said Tuesday that Meier, also known as Samuel Forbes Dakota, first called her after the family's nationwide offer to pay a \$400,000 ransom for their son. She arranged the July 14 meeting in Kansas City. During that meeting, a man identifying himself as Dakota told the Gosches that their son had been kidnapped by Hell's Angels motorcycle club members and was being held in Mexico City, Mexico. A Mexico City man named Enrico Gonzales was said to have bought the youth from the motorcyclists for \$5,000.

The Gosches later wired Dakota four \$2,500 cashier's checks and a \$1,000 money order. Noreen Gosch told FBI agents that Dakota called her again July 24, saying that a rescue attempt in Mexico had failed and that three rescuers had been killed in a shoot-out. An FBI investigation found, however, that no shoot-out matching the one described to the Gosches occurred in Mexico City.

Dakota also told the Gosches that Gonzales had fled to Dearborn, Mich., where another rescue attempt would be made. The Gosches were to travel to Cleveland, Ohio, July 28 to get their son. The couple alerted the FBI, and agents were sent to the meeting site there but no exchange occurred.

## Sought for swindle, man found in Canada

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

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"I have very good reason to know  
that Johnny Gosch is alive."

That statement, part of a 45-minute interview with The Register, was made by 19-year-old Robert Herman Meier II of Saginaw, Mich., who is being sought by the FBI in connection with an alleged extortion plot involving abducted newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch of West Des Moines.

Meier was reached by telephone Wednesday morning at the Canadiana Motel in Windsor, Ontario, after a newspaper there informed The Register that Meier was in that Canadian city.

Meier is wanted for allegedly swindling the boy's parents, John and Noreen Gosch, out of \$11,000 that they sent to him for what they thought would lead to the return of their son, who was 12 years old when he disappeared from his newspaper route three years ago.

In the interview Wednesday, Meier told a fantastic tale, none of which can be confirmed. He claimed to know that Gosch was alive, hinting that he had seen Gosch two months ago in Mexico. At that time, he claimed, Gosch was being held in a house with other children and being kept "not unlike the way you would keep a puppy."

given "important" details that hadn't been publicized before. They included a scar Johnny had on an ankle from a motorcycle accident and details of a blue van that was believed to be parked in the neighborhood Sept. 5, 1982, when the boy disappeared.

But Meier said it was the Gosches who told him about the scar.

Meier was evasive about a positive identification of Gosch. He said he scouted the house where Gosch was being held but didn't get close enough to see the boy. He said, however, that he was told the boy was Gosch.

Meier is a slightly heavy, blond, blue-eyed man who appears to be modestly dressed, according to Noreen Gosch, who, along with her husband, met with him at the Kansas City International Airport July 14 to discuss details of the alleged rescue plan. Meier has tattoos on his arms including one, Noreen Gosch said, that is labeled "Maltese Falcon."

The following is a complete transcript of The Register's interview with Meier:

Question: Rob?

Answer: Who's asking?

Q. I'm Frank Santiago, a reporter for The Des Moines Register.

A. What's the name again?

Q. Frank Santiago.

A. How did you find me?

Q. I understood that you talked to a newspaper there in Windsor.

A. How did you find me?

Q. We talked to some people there.

A. (After a long hesitation) ... I said I was going to turn myself in to the

*"I might as well take a gun to my head and blow my brains out."*

FBI at the border. If you (expletive) this sensitive arrangement by notifying the local police...

Q. I'm not a policeman, Bob. I'm a reporter for The Des Moines Register.

A. I guaranteed them (the Windsor newspaper) the interview.

Q. It's already in the paper up there. I haven't seen it. I'm in Iowa. The story is already out.

A. With this address?

Q. No, no, no. Just the interview about you turning yourself in.

A. (Expletive) you guys work fast.

Q. I'm not interested in telling anybody where you are. I just want to know what got you interested in the Gosches in the first place. The family is from Des Moines here. Why are you interested in turning yourself in? The family said when you talked with them in Kansas City you were kind of revolted about these things happening to kids and that's why you wanted to help them out.

A. Well, look, it was like this. Originally, this thing was supposed to be

valid. I was a front man. I wanted the planner.

Q. OK.

A. When the money was received, the guy who was setting it up got (expletive) because it wasn't enough. He knew what he would have needed to pull it off, and it wasn't enough. He said he wasn't going to do it. I said if he wasn't going to do it, I was going to burn. So I blew it off and ran.

Q. Did you take the money or give it to somebody else?

A. At this point in time I don't want to comment about that.

Q. OK. That's fine. Bob, your information about the boy. Is it good information?

A. It is.

Q. What makes you say that? The FBI is very skeptical here in Iowa about your story. They say they don't see anything to it. What information do you have about the boy?

A. All right now, I'll tell you the plain truth. The FBI is not going to acknowledge one way or another if that information is good or bad. What I know is that if this information is leaked to the press the people will not only go underground but that the odds are about 99 percent they'll put a hit on me.

Q. So what basically can you tell me? Where is the boy? Is he in Mexico?

A. He is.

Q. How do you know that? Have you seen him?

A. I'd rather not say until I've talked with a lawyer.

Q. Where in Mexico is he?

A. The FBI knows.

Q. Are they telling us the truth, that it's Mexico City?

A. Probably not. The reason why I gave an interview is I don't want B.S. spread to the press. I want them to know.

Q. What do you want the people down here to know, including the family?

A. That it was too late. That it had gone too far. I had no control over the situation.



Johnny Gosch  
May be in Mexico

Q. What had gone too far? I don't follow you.

A. Well, either way I would have gotten the name, so I decided to play the game. I really don't know that I should be talking to you.

Q. Well, this is really a big case down here. There are two boys missing and I don't know if you are aware of that. There's a deep concern about what happened to these two boys. I would like to know what's coming down here. Why did they pick him out? What are they doing with him? And how did he get down there? And how did you come across the family? Where did you get this information about the scar on (Johnny's) ankle you told the family about?

A. Well, you realize that no matter what I say and what I do they are going to bring me to Des Moines and I'm not going to get a fair trial.

Q. What do you want to say, then?

A. You see the point is that information has come to me in the past few hours that is very important that I do no more talking to you about specifics.

Q. OK. What do you plan to do here? Turn yourself in at the border?

A. I can tell you exactly what will happen. I can help you out there. The agent I talked to is special agent Stan Walker. They're going to pick me up,

*'Suffice it to say,  
I have reason to  
believe that  
he's alive.'*

take me to Bay City, Mich., to a federal marshal and hold me there. I should be there and then go on to Milan, the federal penitentiary, and then they'll try and work extradition and get me to Des Moines.

Q. This is the deal you worked out with them?

A. No. This is what they told me they're going to do.

Q. OK. Why are you turning yourself in?

A. Why?

Q. Yeah.

A. Because you cannot run from the FBI. It's unbearable.

Q. Bob, What happened to the boy? We'd like to know. Without putting anybody on the spot and endangering yourself. Tell us what you know. Where did you get the information about the scar and the van?

A. Gosches is where I got the information on the scar.

Q. They said they got it from you.

A. I know nothing about that. That's (expletive).

Q. They told you that?

A. That's right.

Q. Where did you get the information about the van?

A. From the guy who set the whole thing up.

Q. OK. You mean the guy who set the kidnapping up?

A. No. The guy who was going to set up the retrieval. Getting the kid back.

Q. Where is this guy from?

A. Houston.

Q. Houston. How did he find out about it?

A. Because he's involved in it. In the kidnapping.

Q. Who are these people? Why are they interested in boys?

A. Why do you work for a newspaper? Because it makes money, right? And it's not just boys they pick up.

Q. Anyway, this guy is involved in it and he lives in Houston. Did he live up here at one time?

A. I think so.

Q. You think he's telling you the truth or just leading you on?

A. I have no reason to believe he lied to me.

Q. Can you tell us that you've seen the boy? Please, that's important here!

A. Suffice it to say that I have very good reason to know that he's alive.

Q. Tell me why. This is very important here.

A. (Hesitation)

Q. Give me one bit of a clue, one bit of information that you really know.

A. You realize what I say will not be admissible in court as evidence. It will upset a jury...

Q. No... where did you see this kid?

A. I went to Mexico almost two months ago. (Hesitation) Damn it, I really shouldn't talk.

Q. No, no. Tell me, this is important.

A. We ran a recon... to see the perimeter and the inside. (Hesitation)

Q. And what happened?

A. Suffice it to say I have reason to believe that he's alive.

Q. Recon of what?

A. A house.

Q. A house with children in it?

A. Yeah.

Q. Recon... in other words, you went down and looked it over.

A. Yes.

Q. What did you see down there? Maybe this is another boy who looks like this boy. I mean, he's a pretty common, ordinary looking fellow for his age.

A. (Hesitation)

Q. How did you know it was him?

A. I'm trying to think of a way to say this.

Q. Did he tell you his name?

A. I didn't get that close.

Q. Did he tell you he was from Iowa? Did he tell you he was a newspaper boy?

A. Look, that kid couldn't have said much even if he wanted to. I seriously

## 'It's not unlike the way you would keep a puppy. A pet.'

doubt he could have remembered much.

Q. Why?

A. You have any idea what they've gone through?

Q. I have no idea.

A. If people think they've got it bad,

they're crazy. The emotional and psy-

chological trauma is frightening.

Q. Bob, where in Mexico is this

house? Mexico City?

A. It's a big town, all right.

Q. But how did you know it was this

kid?

A. I was told.

Q. You were told he was Johnny

Gosch?

A. That's correct.

Q. By the guy from Houston?

A. You're trying to put words in my

mouth. You're trying to make me talk.

Q. Tell me about his house, it's im-

portant. Tell me about this kid. We

want to know if this is (expletive) or if

it's really good information. There is a

feeling around here the police haven't

done what they're supposed to do.

A. They can't.

Q. What did the kid look like?

A. I really don't want to say until I

have had time to consult an attorney.

You can rest assured I have no intention

of making a statement to the

police in any way, shape or form about

anything.

Q. Did you see this kid with your

own eyes? And somebody told you he

was Johnny Gosch?

A. That's very likely.

Q. Have you heard about Johnny

Gosch before?

A. No.

Q. The family said you saw their ap-

peal when they went to Washington

asking for information about their son.

A. I heard about it later.

Q. What are these kids doing in this

house down there? Are they kept as

slaves? Sexual exploitation? What's

the problem there?

A. You might say that it's not unlike

the way you would keep a puppy. A

pet. You have a dog? They keep you

company when you are alone, don't

they?

Q. You mean they are kept in squalid conditions?

A. No, I didn't say that. You're taking it way out of context. You're not understanding what I'm saying.

Q. They are kept like pets rather than people?

A. Right. You don't torture your pet, do you?

Q. Then why are they kept? For what reason?

A. I don't pretend to understand the human brain, nor do I pretend to delve into that subject. I don't know why people do things. It's ludicrous you would ask me my opinion on this.

Q. Well, I thought maybe you would have some insight.

A. It's not a dirty place at all.

Q. Why are they there? What are they being used for?

A. I have no first-hand knowledge.

Q. Why aren't you telling the police about this?

A. Because I don't want to die.

Q. There would be retribution here?

A. Oh, yeah.



Noreen Gosch  
Gave Meier \$11,000

Q. The FBI says the Hell's Angels are involved in this thing.

A. They are not in any way, shape or form.

Q. Then who's involved? Is this an organized effort?

A: It's organized but not by a motorcycle club. The people that run it... there's a word for it. They're kind of like their own little mob. I know they are not tied in with the other family. If they are, it's a distant tie. It's a collaboration of people.

Q: Are they Mexican or American people?

A: Both. I never gave any type of details to the government that a motorcycle club was involved.

Q: Well, that's what's been put out:

A: I told them that. Well, that's not true and it's going to cause a lot of problems. I mean, I might as well take a gun to my head and blow my brains out. Because it's not going to matter any more. The Hell's Angels are not going to care. Either way.

Q: Bob, I don't want to harp on this thing, but it's important. What can you tell us that can convince us other than your work here that that boy down there was Johnny Gosch?

A: I never said the boy was Johnny Gosch.

Q: I thought you said you had good reason to believe he was.

A: I did, but I didn't say specifically that that's who he was.

Q: Why are you in Canada?

A: I like Canada. I like Canadian whisky and I like Canadian women. That's why I came here. So I could have some Canadian whisky and some Canadian women before I went to jail.

Q: Are you spending the money now?

A: Huh?

Q: Are you spending the money now?

A: I don't have the money. I don't have to spend money here.

Q: Why didn't the police or the FBI arrest you Sunday? I understand they talked to you in Saginaw but did not arrest you.

A: What was your name again?

Q: Frank Santiago.

A: Frank, it takes a grand jury indictment to issue a warrant for an arrest. They didn't have a warrant.

Q: So you took off when they came back the second time?

A: No I humored them. I told them what they wanted to hear. I said everything.

Q: You told them everything. That you met with the family. Didn't they come back later to arrest you?

A: Yeah. They called me. They left a message to call them. I called them

*'Look, that kid couldn't have said much even if he wanted to.'*

and they said they needed to meet with me and talk. That clued me.

Q: So that's when you took off?

A: You can say that. I'll tell you something though. They didn't move quick enough because it was nine hours after I was supposed to meet

them that I crossed the border, and I crossed the border without any problems.

Q: Anything else you can tell us, Bob? Like I said, this is important. How did these people take this kid in Des Moines? Did they say?

A: You can use your imagination on that. It was very easy, I'm sure. Any one intent on doing something will do it. The same way that if they are intent on breaking into your home, they'll break in. A lock is not going to stop them. It will just take more time.

Q: Why did they pick this boy and why did they pick him on a newspaper route?

A: Ha. You're asking me why people do things.

Q: Yeah, but why? It's sounds kind of dangerous. Aren't there enough kids sitting around bus depots to snatch that are running away from home than to pick a kid from a good home in a quiet residential area?

A: He had breeding, right?

Q: What?

A: He had breeding.

Q: That's what they were looking for?

A: You tell me.

Q: How do we know that you're not just creating this whole thing about Mexico and the money and the other things?

A: You don't.

Q: You're sincere?

A: Would you talk to me if I wasn't? It takes all kinds of people to know this

*'I told them [FBI] what they wanted to hear. I said everything.'*

world. Some of these people aren't exactly wrapped right.

Q: Bob, are you 19 years old?

A: Yes.

Q: Have you ever been to Iowa?

A: Nope.

Q: What time are you turning yourself in?

A: As soon as the arrangements can be made to have an attorney present. I would say five hours at the border. The FBI agent did what he had to do just like what you put in the paper has to be accurate. At no point in time did I consider running. Could you tell me what was in the FBI's release?

Q: ... according to the FBI, Noreen Gosch told the FBI that you told them Johnny Gosch had been kidnapped by Hell's Angels motorcycle club members and was being held in Mexico City by a man named Enrico Gonzales. Gonzales was said to have bought the youth for \$5,000....

A: I would say they have brought in the Hell's Angels to make it more credible or to cause me more problems. I'm not certain why they have done that. However, I will not turn myself in unless there is an immediate retraction. I mean immediate, right now.

Q. Of the Hell's Angels?

A. That's correct.

Q. You're going to have to talk to the FBI about that. It went into not only the newspaper but went out all over the media. It was a news release.

A. Is there any way you could get ahold of a nationwide broadcasting company like CBS?

Q. That would not do it. But I will tell you you can get hold of the U.S. attorney here because he's the one who issued the statement.

A. Well, I'm going to call the FBI.

Q. The U.S. attorney is the guy who issued the statement.

A. Get them on the horn if you can.

Q. I got your number up there. You're in a motel and I'll tell them to call you and you talk with them.

A. You tell them to call me immediately.

Q. How can they contact you? The guy I talked to on the desk there didn't know your name.

A. You better let me have the number for the U.S. attorney.

(The telephone number was given to him.)

Q. Anything else you want to add?

A. No.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

15 Omaha World-Herald

Omaha, NE.

8/16/85

Date:

Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 7-1053-

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

*Mother Says FBI 'Blew It'*

# Gosch Fraud Suspect Surrenders

Des Moines (AP) — A man who allegedly took \$11,000 from the parents of Johnny Gosch to retrieve the missing newspaper carrier surrendered to federal authorities at the Canadian border at Buffalo, N.Y., Thursday evening, the FBI said.

The FBI had issued a warrant charging the man, Robert Herman Meier II, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., also known as Samuel Forbes Dakota, with fraud by wire.

"He was taken into custody ... in Buffalo, N.Y., where he surrendered to agents without incident," said FBI spokesman Charles R. Wiley.

Meier will have a hearing today before U.S. Magistrate Edmund Maxwell, who will make a bail determination. He was being held at the Erie County Jail.

Meier had told authorities he would surrender Wednesday, but then went to Canada and did not meet FBI agents. The agency said it could do little to get Meier until he decided to cooperate or

Canadian officials took steps to return him.

Wiley said Meier was taken into custody on the Niagara bridge as he came across from Canada. "He called our office in Buffalo and said he was going to turn himself in," Wiley said.

Wiley said Meier would be questioned in Buffalo, and agents would then decide which steps to take next.

A letter Meier purportedly wrote to Johnny's parents, John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines, claimed he was a "guard" in a motorcycle club when Gosch disappeared three years ago, and that Gosch, then age 12, was taken as part of a large child-slavery ring operated by the club.

Mrs. Gosch made the letter public Thursday, saying she wanted to put pressure on the FBI to track down leads in the letter. She hotly criticized the agency, saying its press release about the warrant on Meier destroyed her and her husband's credibility with

anyone who would take the couple's offer to pay ransom for their boy.

"We expected confidence with this letter, and they (the FBI) blew it," Mrs. Gosch said from her office in this Des Moines suburb. "The FBI has ruined chances for getting our son back from information from the public. Why would anyone talk to us now?"

An FBI spokesman in Omaha said the agency would have no comment on the criticism.

The letter, dated July 23, was signed by Samuel Forbes Dakota.

The FBI alleged that Meier took \$11,000 from the Gosches, asked for \$100,000 more and promised to return their son.

In a telephone interview with the Des Moines Register published Thursday, Meier said he had reason to know that Gosch was alive and that the boy was being held in Mexico City as sort of a "pet." Meier was reached at a motel in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, just east of Detroit.

7-1053-A-361

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 1 J 1985	
FBI - CLEVELAND	

*[Signature]*

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

22 Omaha World-Herald

Omaha, NE

Date: 8/15/85

Edition:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

7-1053-

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

## Alleged Swindler Says Gosch Is Alive

Des Moines (AP) — A man wanted for allegedly swindling the parents of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch said Wednesday that the boy is alive in Mexico City, where he is being kept as a "pet."

In a telephone interview with the Des Moines Register, Robert Herman Meier II, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., would not say whether he had seen the boy, but said he was sure the boy is alive.

"Suffice it to say I have reason to know he is alive," he said. Meier was reached at a motel in Windsor, Ontario, which is just east of Detroit. Earlier, a Canadian newspaper interviewed Meier. He said he was to give himself up to the FBI later in the day, but he failed to do so. The FBI said it does not have jurisdiction to arrest him in Canada.

The FBI announced Tuesday that it had issued a warrant for Meier's arrest, charging him with defrauding John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines. The Gosches said they gave \$11,000 to Meier, who identified himself to them as Samuel Forbes Dakota.

They said he told them that the boy, who was 12 when he disappeared from his newspaper route three years ago, had been purchased from the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang and was being held in Mexico City. He told them that a rescue attempt failed and that three rescuers died in a shootout. The FBI said, however, that no shootout matching the one described to the Gosches occurred in Mexico City.

"He's never been in Mexico," said one agent in Omaha.

Meier declined to be specific on most of his points in the interview with the Register, but he did deny implicating the Hell's Angels, saying that the motorcyclists might try to kill him. "I might as well take a gun to my head and blow my brains out," he said.

The Gosches said Meier's story had at least some credibility because he knew about a scar on Johnny's ankle, the result of a motorcycle accident. He also had details of a van that was believed to be nearby when the boy disappeared. But Meier said the details came from the Gosches themselves.

Asked if he had seen the boy, he said first, "I'd rather not say until I've talked with a lawyer." Asked again, he said, "Suffice it to say I have good reason to know he is alive."

He said he went to Mexico City and saw the house where several children were being kept. He hinted that Gosch was among them.

"You might say that it's not unlike the way you would keep a puppy. A pet. You have a dog? They keep you company when you are alone, don't they?" he said.

He also wouldn't say what he had done with the money.

"When the money was received, the guy who was setting it up got (expletive) because it wasn't enough. He knew what he would have needed to pull it off, and it wasn't enough. He said he wasn't going to do it. I said if he wasn't going to do it, I was going to burn. So I blew it off and ran."

7-1053-A-362

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 10 1985	
FBI - OMAHA	

W

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosch case fugitive Meier gives up to FBI

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Robert Herman Meier II, who disappeared after being charged with swindling the parents of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch of \$11,000, surrendered to the FBI Thursday evening at Niagara Falls, N.Y.

A spokesman for the FBI in Buffalo, N.Y., said the 19-year-old Michigan man, who slipped away Wednesday after saying he would surrender at Windsor, Ontario, some 250 miles away, met with agents on the Rainbow Bridge, which links the United States and Canada.

"He was in a car driven by a woman who said she was his mother," said FBI spokesman Mike V. Kogut. "The car had slowed for the customs station. Four agents surrounded the car and he surrendered peacefully."

Kogut, who would not reveal Meier's mother's name, said Meier was dressed "casually" and didn't talk to agents as he was taken to jail in Buffalo.

Meier had contacted the FBI in Buffalo three times Thursday before surrendering about 4 p.m. (Iowa time). Meier is expected to be arraigned in Buffalo today on a charge of wire fraud.

Meanwhile, John and Noreen Gosch, the youngster's parents, said the man who tells a bizarre story about Johnny Gosch being held in Mexico may not be Robert Herman Meier — though they say he is the man they talked to about their son's disappearance.

"He told us he saw the name on a wall in a Houston phone booth and used it," John Gosch said Thursday. "He said his real name was Dakota, a motorcycle club name, and he said he was 27 years old. He didn't look 19 years old to us."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1A and 16A  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/16/85

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB:  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-A363

77 79

AM

Gosches said they received a letter July 23 signed "Samuel Forbes Dakota."

John Gosch identified a photograph of Meier, taken in a Windsor motel room Wednesday, as the man he and Noreen Gosch met at the Kansas City International Airport July 14. Meier had telephoned the family's West Des Moines home from Houston to set up the Kansas City meeting. He said he had a plan to rescue their son.

Gosch said Meier "appeared a little heavier" in the photograph.

"We sent him a ticket to get to Kansas City, and we asked what name to put on it. That's when he told us Bob Meier. When we met with him, he told us that name wasn't his and that he had a false identification for Meier," John Gosch said.

In an interview Wednesday with The Register, Meier claimed to know that Johnny Gosch was alive, hinting that he had seen the boy two months ago in a home in Mexico with other youngsters. He said they were being kept "not unlike the way you would keep a puppy."

The FBI has been skeptical of Meier's story, and one agent in Omaha said Meier "has never been to Mexico."

Meier also claimed that the Hell's Angels were not involved in the abduc-

#### FUGITIVE

Please turn to Page 16A

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER FROM MIKE WEAVER, THE WINDSOR STAR



Robert Herman Meier II is shown in his motel room in Windsor, Ontario, before he gave himself up to the FBI Thursday.

# Letter tells of child auction

## FUGITIVE

*Continued from Page One*

tion of Gosch, saying a group of Mexicans and Americans was responsible.

But the Gosches released copies of the July 23 letter from Dakota in which he claimed he was a "guard" in the Hell's Angels motorcycle club between April 1979 and July 1983 in the "operations of the sale of children as slaves."

"I personally stood guard over no less than 200 children in the time specified and delivered no less than 30 children to the auction block. One of these children is known to me as Johnny Gosch."

The letter said Gosch was sold to a man Dakota described as a "high-level drug dealer residing in Mexico City."

Noreen Gosch said she released the letter "to put pressure on the FBI" to check into Meier's rambling story, which she said appears to have some credibility.

Joe Beck, assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, said that although it was widely known where Meier was in Canada, "we didn't have the jurisdiction to pick him up."

"You have to go through the Department of Justice and the treaty obligations. It's difficult, and it's a lot of paperwork. It's governed by international treaties. You have to show probable cause that a crime has been committed, and that is based on first-person affidavits," he said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Meier faces fraud charge in Gosch case

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Robert Herman Meier II, 19, appeared Friday in federal court in Buffalo, N.Y., one day after he surrendered to law officers to face a charge of attempting to defraud the parents of missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch.

Meier was returned to the Erie County, N.Y., jail, where he is being held under \$50,000 bond while awaiting a preliminary hearing. U.S. Magistrate Edmund F. Maxwell scheduled the hearing for Aug. 24 and appointed Buffalo lawyer James Harrington to represent Meier, who said he could not afford to hire his own a lawyer.

In Des Moines, Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Beck said the Saginaw, Mich., man will be taken to Des Moines later for trial on the fraud charge. If convicted, he could be imprisoned for five years and fined \$1,000.

ROBERT  
MEIER II

Beck said other charges may be filed later, depending on what an investigation now under way by the FBI reveals.

In Buffalo, Meier told Judge Maxwell he did not intend to run and he was "fully aware that the charges were not heavy enough to carry extradition" from Canada, where he had been before surrendering Thursday at Niagara Falls. In the courtroom Friday were a woman and boy who said they were Meier's mother and brother. They declined to give their names. They said Meier is an unemployed bartender.

Meier had claimed in an interview before his arrest that Gosch is alive and being kept in Mexico. The boy's parents, John and Noreen Gosch, alleged that Meier outlined to them during a July 14 meeting in Kansas City a plan to rescue the boy. They said they later paid him \$11,000 in "up front money" and had agreed to pay \$100,000 more later in exchange for their son.

The Gosches said that Meier, in a letter signed "Samuel Forbes Dakota," said he was a member of the Hell's Angels and a guard in the sale of children as slaves. FBI officials have said the Gosches were told by Meier Johnny had been kidnapped by the Hell's Angels.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/20/85

Edition: Morning

Time: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIMCharacter: KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1053  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-A-364

79 79

= *[Signature]*  
FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosch

# assault reported!

Noreen Gosch, mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, told police she was assaulted by her husband, John, while driving in the Quad-Cities last weekend, according to a Bettendorf police report.

The incident was reported to have happened around midnight Friday while the two were driving on Interstate 74 in or near the Quad-Cities, the report says. The Gosches were in the area attending a wedding, police said.

Mrs. Gosch, 41, of Des Moines contacted Davenport police from a motel room at the Ramada Inn in Davenport, Bettendorf police said. The case was referred to Bettendorf police for jurisdiction reasons.

Police said there were no injuries reported and no charges were filed.

Mrs. Gosch did not return a reporter's telephone call Monday night.

Johnny Gosch disappeared more than two years ago while delivering newspapers in Des Moines. Another Des Moines newspaper carrier, Eugene Martin, 14, disappeared Aug. 12 while delivering papers.

The Gosches are formerly of Eldridge.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Quad City Times  
Davenport, Iowa

Date: 8/21/84  
Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: Kidnaping  
or

Classification: 7-1053  
Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:

7-1053-370  
7-1145 Sub A-23

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 4 1984	
FBI-OMAHA	

1c to 7-1145

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Investigators offer views on disappearances

By FRANK SANTIAGO and TOM ALEX  
*Register Staff Writers*

Two investigators who help find missing children say the mystery person or persons involved in the disappearances of two Des Moines-area newspaper carriers is likely from the community and may have been known to the youngsters.

"My guess is," said Dennis G. Whelan, a private detective from Omaha, "that these kids were staked out and put under surveillance. The person who did it knew them and I think it's a person within the community."

Jay Howell, executive director of the Center on Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C., said, "I don't think it's a transient."

"To me, the cases suggest more of a plan," Howell said. "It's a lot less spontaneous than the public situations at carnivals and shopping centers" where children have been abducted.

The observations were made in recent telephone interviews as local investigators continued to hunt for information about Eugene Wade Martin, 14, of Des Moines, who disappeared Aug. 12, and Johnny Gosch, also 14, of West Des Moines, who has been gone since Sept. 5, 1982. Both vanished without a trace while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register. Although there are many similarities, the two cases haven't been linked by the authorities.

Investigators have considered that a local person may be involved but, police have said, it is only one of a number of possibilities. They have been unable to say which scenario is more plausible than the other because of the utter lack of information.

Herbert Hawkins, FBI agent-in-charge of the regional office in Omaha, reiterated, "We still want that one clue that would put us on the right track."

No new leads were reported Tuesday.

Whelan, who had been hired by Neleen and John Gosch to find their son but is no longer employed by them, said, "The area where Johnny was taken from [Forty-third Street and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines] is off the beaten track. It's not an area where you just go to if you're new in town.

"I think the kids might have somewhere along the line known the individual who spoke to them," he said.

There is a possibility, he said, that the apparent kidnapper was disguised, and the youngsters believed he was a policeman or a representative of the newspaper.

Howell said that in his six years of studying missing children, including three years with a U.S. Senate subcommittee that investigated the problem, the disappearances here appear to be the first of a kind.

Meanwhile, singer Wayne Newton, who performed at the Iowa State Fair last week, contributed \$5,000 to a reward fund for information leading to the recovery of the newspaper carriers. The money and \$1,000 pledges each from Stroh Corp. and Teamsters Local 87, boosted the fund's total to \$76,500 Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Las Vegas entertainer said Newton had been jogging when he saw several posters of the missing youngsters.

"He read about it and he was saddened," the spokesman said. "He wanted to do something and to encourage other performers at the fair to match his pledge."

FBI agents have been at The Des Moines Register examining employee files to determine who had contact with the newspaper's circulation department or who worked as carriers during the past two years, according to Barbara Mack, general counsel. Mack said there "was no targeting," that the agents were simply looking for names that may have come up elsewhere in the investigation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 8/22/84

Edition Morning

UNSUB;

Title EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character KIDNAPING

or 7-1145 & 7-1053

Classification:

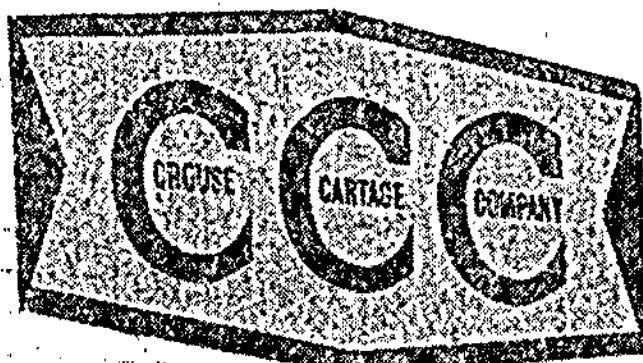
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

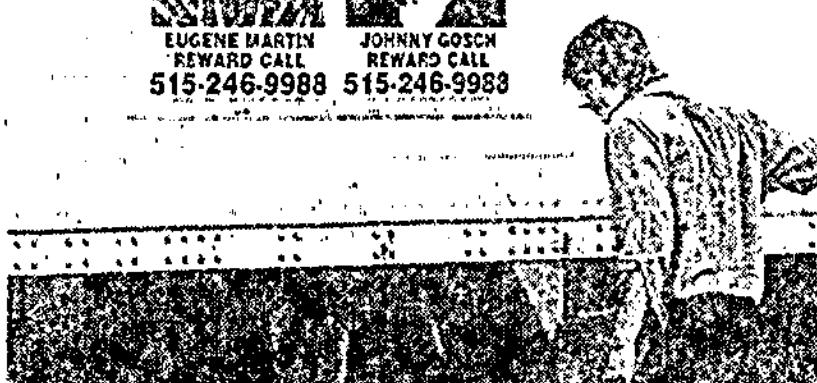
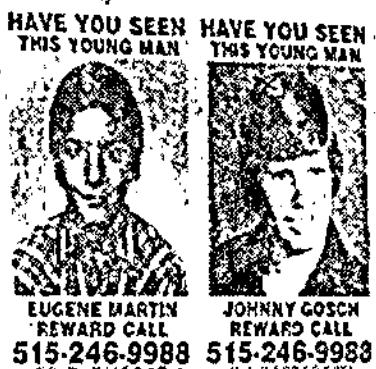
089 in 7-1145-Sub A

7-1053-371  
7-1145-Sub A-24  
FBI/DOJ

REGISTER PHOTO BY LARRY E. NEIBERGALL



"Service is Our Salesman"



Scott Crouse of Des Moines prepares a truck for departure at the Crouse Cartage Co. Posters offering a reward for information about missing newspaper carriers Eugene Martin and Johnny Gosch were posted on the company's trucks, which travel throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Council may add to Martin-Gosch fund

By FRANK SANTIAGO and TOM ALEX

Register Staff Writers

Councilman Archie Brooks will ask the Des Moines City Council Monday to add \$25,000 to a reward fund seeking information on the whereabouts of missing newsboys Eugene Martin and Johnny Gosch.

In a letter Brooks mailed to the other six council members, he sought their support in asking City Manager Richard Wilkey to find the money in the budget, presumably the general fund.

"It's hard to put it in words but the loss has left an imprint on this city. Every person is angry and hurt," Brooks said. "I feel government must preserve the well-being of its citizenry and what has happened justifies using the money."

Brooks said he was uncertain if the council would go along with his idea at its regular meeting but, according to City Attorney Philip Riley, the city has offered reward money before. However, Riley couldn't recall when or how much.

"Rewards are an ancient and honorable method to bring people to justice," Riley said.

A \$25,000 contribution, which would match the \$25,000 pledge made by the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company earlier, would boost the total reward money to well over \$100,000.

By Wednesday, \$84,000 had been pledged. Latest pledges received were \$5,000 from the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co., \$1,000 from the Iowan Magazine, \$500 from the employees of Stew Hansen's Dodge City in Des Moines and \$1,000 from the Home Builders' Association of Greater Des Moines.

Among other contributions Tuesday was \$1,000 from Teamsters Local 387 of Des Moines.

The reward is for information leading to the recovery of either Martin, 14, of Des Moines, who disappeared Aug. 12, or Gosch who was 12 when he vanished Sept. 5, 1982, in



Eugene Martin

**Hot line: 246-9988**

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

Page 5M  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date 8/23/84  
Edition Morning

Title UNSUB:  
EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM  
UNSUB:  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character KIDNAPING

or  
Classification 7-1145 & 7-1053  
Submitting Office OMAHA

Indexing

7-1053-372  
7-1145 Sub A-25  
FBI/DOJ

origin 7-1145 Sub A

West Des Moines. Both were delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register in residential areas about seven miles apart.

Des Moines Police Department spokesman Sgt. William Mullins said it was difficult to say if the swelling reward fund was attracting information.

"In the past 24 hours," he said, "we've gotten only 20 calls on the hot line [246-9988]. That's well below the hundreds of calls we were getting in the first few days."

But, added Mullins, "We're thankful for the interest and we're hopeful that it will provide that one bit of information we need."

The disappearances continue to baffle investigators.

Mullins said most callers have been reporting "sightings" which are difficult to trace and many of which have been suspicious.

Callers have said they saw Martin selling tomatoes at a roadside stand in a neighboring state, Martin and Gosch riding an Amtrak train between Chicago and New York, and Martin in a Maryland shopping center.

Despite the lagging hot line calls, efforts on behalf of the two missing boys appeared to be gaining momentum.

Hundreds of thousands of posters have been distributed throughout the community and well into the state and beyond. One Des Moines resident who recently went into a bathhouse near a Wisconsin lake said she saw a poster pinned to the wall.

Anderson Erickson Dairy has announced it plans to reproduce the posters on containers of its dairy products. Thousands of the posters, translated into Spanish, are to be sent by The Register to newspapers in Mexico urging the publishers to run the posters as a public service. Posters already have been distributed to newspapers throughout the United States with a similar plea.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
**Quad City Times  
Davenport, Iowa**

Date: 8/28/84  
 Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
**JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM**

Character: Kidnaping  
 or  
 Classification: 7-1053  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:

# Gosch incident reported, but probe dropped

Bettendorf police confirmed Monday that they did receive a report of an alleged assault on Noreen Gosch, mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, by her husband, John, while the two were in the Quad-Cities area 11 days ago.

John Gosch told a WOC-TV reporter in Eldridge on Sunday that the fight did not take place and that police were not contacted.

Gosch disputed an Aug. 21 story in the Quad-City Times that reported Mrs. Gosch, 41, had told police she was assaulted by her husband while the two were driving in the Quad-Cities area Aug. 17.

The Times reported that Mrs. Gosch contacted the Davenport Police Department around midnight Aug. 17 from a motel room at the Ramada Inn in Davenport, according to a Bettendorf police report. A Davenport police officer visited Mrs. Gosch at the motel and she said her husband had hit her while the two were driving on Interstate 74 in the Quad-Cities area, the report said.

The Gosches apparently were in the area attending a wedding, police said.

The Davenport officer referred the case to Bettendorf police for fol-

low-up because it appeared the alleged assault may have occurred in Bettendorf, Bettendorf Police Capt. Tom Lemons said Monday.

Lemons said Bettendorf police talked by phone to a woman at the Ramada Inn who identified herself as Mrs. Gosch and by phone to a man in Calamus, Iowa, who identified himself as Mr. Gosch.

After doing so, the department decided not to investigate further, he said, because of uncertainty about where the alleged incident took place — Davenport, Bettendorf or perhaps in Illinois — and because Mrs. Gosch did not sign a formal complaint.

After verifying that Bettendorf police did receive an assault report involving the Gosches, the Quad-City Times tried unsuccessfully to reach the couple for comment. They did not return phone messages left at their Des Moines home.

Johnny Gosch disappeared more than two years ago while delivering newspapers in Des Moines. Another Des Moines newspaper carrier, Eugene Martin, 14, disappeared Aug. 12 while delivering papers.

The Gosches are formerly of Eldridge.

7-1053-373  
 4-114 Sub A-29

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SFP 4 1984	
FBI/OMAHA	

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# Mrs. Gosch Thinks Son Is Dead, FBI Is Negligent

Des Moines (AP) — The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch said Wednesday she now believes her son has been killed by his captors because the FBI publicly released information about a man who says he knows something about the case.

"In my heart, I feel that the FBI has been responsible for his death," Noreen Gosch said in a telephone interview from her West Des Moines office. "I didn't feel that way before Aug. 13, the day they did the press release."

"As far as I'm concerned, I think the FBI has killed Johnny Gosch with their negligence."

FBI agents in West Des Moines and the regional office in Omaha said they would not comment on Mrs. Gosch's allegations.

Mrs. Gosch and her husband, John, were angered when the FBI issued the press release saying it was seeking Robert H. Meier II, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., in connection with an attempt to

defraud the Gosches of \$11,000. Meier wrote a letter to the Gosches in July, saying that he knew the whereabouts of their son, missing for nearly three years, and that for a fee he could arrange Johnny's return.

Meier has since been charged with six counts of wire fraud.

He crossed the Canadian border and surrendered to the FBI in Buffalo, N.Y., earlier this month. A federal magistrate ruled Wednesday that surely put up by relatives was not enough to meet a \$50,000 bond to free Meier from custody and ordered Meier returned to Iowa by Tuesday.

"The FBI doesn't ordinarily put out press releases," Mrs. Gosch said. "I definitely feel their actions have killed our son."

She said she believes the press release about Meier's letter and the national attention it received may have caused her son's abductors to flee or to

Please turn to Page 14, Col. 3

Date:  
Edition:

Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

14 OMAHA WORLD-HERALD Thursday, August 29, 1985

## Mrs. Gosch Believes Son Is Dead

\*Continued from Page 13

kill him.

A short time after the FBI's press release, the Gosches made public copies of the letter they said they received from Meier. She denied Wednesday that action also jeopardized her son. "The damage was done," she said.

Earlier Wednesday, Mrs. Gosch had said she was pleased with the decision by Magistrate Edmund F. Maxwell to keep Meier in custody. She said she and her husband still believed Meier had information about their son's whereabouts. She explained later that she hoped Meier knew where her son might be, "so that we could at least resolve the case."

After a 30-minute hearing, Maxwell ruled that the value of the cash and property Meier's relatives raised to secure his bail did not amount to \$50,000.

Maxwell said the bond will remain at \$50,000. Once Meier is in Iowa, his bond could be changed by whatever federal judge is assigned the case, said Roger Williams, first assistant U.S. attorney.

Mrs. Gosch said she and her husband were relieved by the decision. She had said she was concerned that Meier might disappear if released from custody.

Johnny Gosch disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, at the age of 12 while preparing to deliver his paper route.

Meier is accused of telling the Gosches that their son had been sold into slavery and was living with a drug dealer in Mexico.

According to the indictment, Meier promised the Gosches he could free their son for \$11,000 but later told them the rescue attempt had failed.

7-1053A-378

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SFP 9 - 1985	
FBI - OMAHA	

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Date:  
Edition:

Title:

7-1053A-379  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

Character:

CCD 9-1985

Classification:

Submitting Office: FBI - OMAHA

b6  
b7c

Thurs., Aug. 24, 1985 ■ THE DES MOINES REGISTER / 3M

## Gosch believes son is dead; blames FBI

The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch said Wednesday she now believes her son has been killed by his captors because the FBI publicly released information about a man who claimed to know his whereabouts.

"In my heart, I feel that the FBI has been responsible for his death," Noreen Gosch said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I didn't feel that way before Aug. 13, the day they did the press release."

"As far as I'm concerned, I think the FBI has killed Johnny Gosch with their negligence."

In a later interview with The Des Moines Register, however, Gosch appeared to back away from her statements, indicating that she thought her son might still be alive. "They could very well be responsible for what happens to him," she said of the FBI.

FBI agents in Des Moines and at the regional headquarters in Omaha, Neb., said they would not comment on her allegations.

Gosch and her husband, John, were angered when the FBI issued a news release earlier this month saying that federal agents were seeking Robert H. Meler II, 19, of Sag-

inaw, Okla., in connection with an alleged attempt to defraud the Goscches of \$11,000. Meler contacted the Goscches in July claiming he knew where their son was and offering to arrange his return for a fee.

Meler has since been charged with six counts of wire fraud.

"The FBI doesn't ordinarily put out press releases," Noreen Gosch said. "I definitely feel their actions have killed our son." She said she believes the new release about Meler and the national attention it received may have caused her son's abductors to flee or to kill him.

Meanwhile Wednesday, a federal magistrate in Buffalo, N.Y., ruled that Meler will remain in custody while waiting to be taken to Iowa later this week to face the fraud charges. He was arrested Aug. 16 in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Magistrate Edward F. Maxwell ruled that the value of the property and cash that Meler's relatives put up to secure his release while awaiting trial does not amount to the needed \$50,000. Maxwell directed federal marshals to take Meler to Iowa no later than Tuesday.

Noreen Gosch said she was relieved by Maxwell's decision. "Our greatest concern was not necessarily that he would skip the country, but what if the Hell's Angels started to look for him," she said, a reference to Meler's claim that he had guarded kidnapped children while a member of the Hell's Angels motorcycle club.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gloom pervades as Gosch search enters 4th year

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

The search for Johnny Gosch — "one of the hottest investigations" under way by the FBI, according to a spokesman — begins its fourth year today with a guarded but growing suspicion that the missing newspaper carrier may never be found.

"We're still optimistic and still looking," says West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney, who heads the local investigation.

Privately, some who have contributed to the massive investigation say they may never find the switch that will throw light on the mystery that began Sept. 5, 1982, when the 12-year-old stepped out of his West Des Moines home to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register.

A massive investigation, a barrage of publicity and huge rewards offered for the barest of information have produced no luck in the three years.

"We don't know what works," an investigator says. "But then it could change. There might be something we need."

Noreen and John Gosch believe their son is alive. They went before a national television audience in July and produced a \$1 bill bearing the message "I am alive." They said handwriting experts believe it was signed by Johnny.

## Just Like Day One

The "official" Gosch investigation, which includes the FBI, the Division of Criminal Investigation and West Des Moines police, has uncovered nothing that would point to what happened to the youngster after his wagon was found laden with undelivered newspapers at Forty-second Street and Marcourt Lane.

"It's like it was on Day One," McKinney says.

Investigators don't know the answers to the other equally baffling case: What happened to Eugene Martin, the 13-year-old youngster who disappeared Aug. 12, 1984, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register in a south Des Moines neighborhood? Because of the similarities, a link is suspected but hasn't been proved.

Both investigations, which have become interwoven, are nudged forward only occasionally when police get a "sighting" call, many of them from people who have seen one of the many posters hung across North America that report the youngsters missing.

Some callers are like the man who phoned The Register two weeks ago to say he saw Gosch in a dream but couldn't pinpoint whether it was in a setting in Mexico or Canada.

A man from Florence, Ariz., approached the newspaper recently claiming he had powers to find the boys by dangling a nut at the end of a string over a map. He said he "found" Gosch's billfold with the device but couldn't pinpoint the location.

Neither scores of police interrogations and searches, nor the vast pool of information logged in a computer have been successful. Stories of the missing youngsters have been retold in the national media dozens of times.

Gosch's picture has appeared on milk cartons, in police bulletins as far away as Hawaii, in magazines and in newspapers well beyond the state. A West Palm Beach, Fla.-based tabloid displayed a color photograph of the youngster recently under the headline "Get \$400,000 For Finding This Lost Boy." It is a reference to the no-questions-asked reward offered by the parents.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 9/5/85

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053-Sub A  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053A-380

*[Signature]**[Signature]*  
FBI/DOJ



Johnny Gosch  
One of FBI's "hottest" cases

The Gosch offering is in addition to the \$125,000 promised by businesses and individuals, including The Des Moines Register, for any information that would lead to either of the youngsters. No one has claimed the money.

There has been one arrest, but not of a suspected abductor. Robert Herman Meier, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., has pleaded innocent to six charges of fraud after telling the Gosches that their son was alive and was being kept by a gang in Mexico. Meier is accused of taking \$11,000 from them. He is being held on a \$50,000 bond and faces 30 years in prison and a \$6,000 fine.

Charles Wiley, FBI spokesman in Omaha for the Iowa-Nebraska field office, says, "We surely hope we can find the boy. We're working toward that end."

"You look at any major investigation going on in the FBI today, whether it's counter-intelligence or organized crime or political corruptions, and you'll find this case gets a lot of attention. The file on it is voluminous. It's one of the hottest things in the FBI. We are giving it all the attention we can give."

Wiley says the interest stems from growing concern about missing children. But FBI figures show that the agency is active in fewer missing children cases.

#### Called Into Fewer Cases

In 1984, according to an FBI spokesman in Washington, agents were assigned to 168 kidnapping cases, 68 of them involving children. This year, there are 46 kidnapping cases and only 11 of them involving children, including Gosch and Martin.

"The figures don't necessarily mean there are fewer missing children," the spokesman said. "They mean the FBI has been called into fewer cases. There may be more cases investigated locally."

Wiley said the two apparent abductions don't follow the "standard kidnapping cases."

"Traditionally, the kidnapper wants ransom. But today there are kidnappings for a number of reasons. We have some weirdos walking around who have warped ideas about children. It's that kind of individual that causes us the greatest problem."

Whether the FBI suspects a local maniac at work, as many other investigators do, or whether others are involved, Wiley declines to say.

"We're probably dealing with a deranged individual, but we don't know," he says.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOI/PA

DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

FOI/PA# 1615669-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 8

Page 20 ~ Duplicate;

Page 21 ~ Duplicate;

Page 22 ~ Duplicate;

Page 25 ~ Duplicate;

Page 38 ~ Duplicate;

Page 39 ~ Duplicate;

Page 40 ~ Duplicate;

Page 53 ~ Duplicate;

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 Page 1B and 2B  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 9/15/85  
 Edition: Sunday Morning

UNSUB;  
 Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7-1053  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# IRS: \$175,000 raised by Gosch search fund

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

John and Noreen Gosch, helped by others who joined in the search for the couple's missing son Johnny, raised \$175,896 in the two years after he disappeared in 1982, according to returns filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

The current total undoubtedly is higher because the figure includes only donations and other income during 1983 and 1984 and not the current year.

The total was reported on returns filed by Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc., a tax-exempt group organized by volunteers to raise money to finance the search for the missing West Des Moines boy.

In the returns, which the IRS requires of tax-exempt non-profit and charitable groups, Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc. reported that \$159,498 was spent in 1983 and 1984 and that there was money left at the end of each year and no debts.

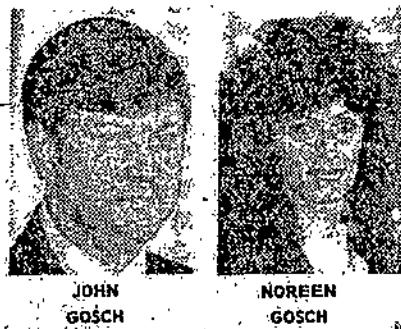
A \$3,407 balance in 1983 increased to \$16,900 in 1984, the documents show. The balances included \$502 in interest on savings.

## Detectives Cost \$71,454

During the two years, the organization reported it received \$67,027 in public support, defined by the IRS as "contributions, gifts, grants," and spent \$71,454 for detectives, the largest single expense.

Some of the group's income comes from selling candy bars. In 1983, for example, the candy sales raised \$50,597. But the organization, the return shows, netted only \$7,731, or about 15 percent, after paying out \$42,866 in expenses. The document does not specify how the \$42,866 was spent, but the Gosches said earlier a large share of the proceeds went to the candy manufacturer and for shipping.

Noreen Gosch, commenting on the returns in an interview, said the documents report two distinct activities. The first includes a range of fund-rais-

JOHN  
GOSCHNOREEN  
GOSCH

ing efforts by the family and volunteers to locate her son. The other consists of the "In Defense of Children" lectures she and her husband have presented, which she said are supported mostly by donations.

"They are channeled in different directions and not mixed," she said.

"Any money that has ever been used to help locate Johnny has come from fund-raisers, candy bar sales, button sales, jewelry sales, you name it."

"We worked hard and we raised all the money ourselves with the help of the committee to pay for everything related to Johnny. When he disappeared, nobody offered to pay for the fliers. We had to do it all."

She said that she and her husband did not profit from the fund and that "everything was done above-board."

Recently, the couple drew a reported \$11,000 from the fund to pay Robert Meier, the 19-year-old Saginaw, Mich., man now charged with swindling. Meier, the Gosches say, asked the money in exchange for information he said would lead to their son. Charged with six counts of wire fraud, Meier is in the Polk County Jail awaiting a November trial.

## Presented 376 Programs

Noreen Gosch said the \$11,000, which authorities say has not been recovered, came from the proceeds of the garage sales and other events held

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 2B

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7-1053-Sub A-392

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SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 16 1985	
FBI - DES MOINES	

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FBI/DOJ

# ~~Well has run dry, Noreen Gosch says~~

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page 1B*

to raise money to search for the youngster.

"Any money collected from the awareness programs has paid for the printing of literature and films for our library. It is something that supports itself," she said.

Gosch, a secretary for Economics Labs in West Des Moines, said she and her husband, district sales manager for American Cyanamid Co., have given 376 programs, most by invitation, in Iowa and neighboring states. The programs were free, she said, and the hosts paid expenses. Collections from the audience helped pay for abduction awareness literature distributed to the audience and for the films that were shown, she said.

"We handed out thousands and thousands of dollars worth of literature to each set of parents so they could read it and work with their kids. It was long before any other organizations sprung up," she said.

Of the \$71,454 in detective fees,

Gosch said, "Have you any idea what it cost to send a detective out on the road for a week? At \$30 an hour, it gets very expensive."

In the early months of the search, the group hired Omaha private investigator Dennis Whelan. Recently, Investigative Research of Chicago has been employed.

## Energy Waning

Said Noreen Gosch, "I don't have the energy to continue to do the massive fund-raisers that it took to pay the detective bills. I'm going to continue with the awareness programs, providing the literature and the films for families, and we're going to continue to consult and speak out for children.

"All we have now is just the awareness programs to pay the printing bills and continue with that effort. If a big lead comes in on Johnny, I'm not sure what we can do to follow it up."

The returns for 1983 and 1984 show that Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc. spent \$4,320 for telephone service, \$4,788 for "conferences, conventions and meetings," \$10,465 for printing

and publications, \$3,292 for selling and administrative expenses, and \$624 for liability insurance. In 1983, it had a onetime expense of \$569 for a lawyer and, in 1984, it reported \$1,063 in contributions whose source was not specified.

The returns were prepared by Robert Dutcht of 1692 N.W. Ninety-ninth Court in Clive, who is secretary-treasurer and a director of Help Find Johnny Gosch Inc. Other officers and directors listed are Ronald Sampson of Bondurant, president; Greg Cudworth of 1008 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines, vice president, and F.A.D. "Bill" Kelley of 1109 Woodland Park Drive in West Des Moines, a director.

Gosch disappeared without a trace Sept. 5, 1982, two blocks from his West Des Moines home as he prepared to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register.

In August, Noreen Gosch announced the family was withdrawing from an active search for Johnny and would proceed only as leads came in.

7-1053 SUB A - 419

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SERIALIZED J.B. FILED J.B.

NOV 6 1 1985

FBI-OMAHA

KRK/JB



## HELP FIND JOHNNY GOSCH, INC.

Box 65332  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265  
515-244-9181

SEPTEMBER 30, 1985

### MEETING WITH GOVERNOR BRANSTAD

#### PRESS RELEASE

[REDACTED] are meeting with Governor Branstad today to request the assistance and involvement of the Governor's office to solve the kidnapping of their son Johnny. Three long years have passed and there are several points being covered today. They are as follows:

1. A W. Des Moines Police Officer who has refused to be questioned and had denied being present at a football game on 9/3/82 during which a lengthy conversation was held with Johnny Gosch. The police officer bears a strong resemblance to the composite drawing of the kidnapper. Attached you will find a copy of the report and invoice from the WDM Community Schools indicating the officers paid for guard duty at the location. The highlighted name is the officer in question.
2. Letters received by [REDACTED] are being turned over to the Governor indicating a porn and prostitution market of children in this State. It is not known at this time if this will directly affect the Gosch case but it is involving other children and the Governor's attention to this matter is of vital importance. Names must be withheld at this time from the public.
3. [REDACTED] has information which is vital in the kidnapping case of Johnny Gosch. We need the assistance of the Governor's office in handling of this situation. [REDACTED] used this information for personal financial gain.... the question still remains "WHERE DID HE OBTAIN HIS INFORMATION REGARDING JOHNNY GOSCH". THIS CAN NOT BE OVERLOOKED. We need this information to solve the case and every effort to obtain it must be explored.

[REDACTED] HAVE DEMONSTRATED FOR THREE YEARS - STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR SON AND FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN IN THIS COUNTRY. BUT STILL AFTER THREE YEARS OF WORK NONE OF THEIR EFFORTS OF LEGISLATION HAS HELPED THEIR SON. A REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR IS BEING MADE TODAY TO INVOLVE HIS OFFICE TO BE CERTAIN THIS CASE IS SOLVED.

THE MEN WHO KIDNAPPED JOHNNY GOSCH HAVE NOT BEEN CAUGHT..... AND WITH THE RECENT NEWS OF THE SIOUX CITY GIRL WAS NEARLY ABDUCTED AT GUNPOINT LAST WEEK INDICATES THE DANGER HAS NOT PASSED. THE THREAT IS STILL VERY REAL CONCERNING OUR CHILDREN.

GOVERNOR BRANSTAD HAS THE POWER TO REQUEST CERTAIN RECORDS AND ANSWERS FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT IN IOWA, WE ARE ASKING HIM TO EXERCISE THIS POWER AND ASSIST. HE HAS BEEN A LEADER IN THIS COUNTRY FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND SAFETY. MR. & MRS. BRANSTAD HAVE BOTH BEEN VERY KIND TO [REDACTED] AND WE APPRECIATE THIS GREATLY. THEY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR CHILDREN.

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7-1053 Sub A - ~~420~~

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SERIALIZED FILED J.B.

NOV 1 1985

FBI-OMAHA

RK/JB.

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Page 2M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 11/22/85

Edition: Morning

Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTI

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

# I know nothing of Johnny Gosch, Meier told jurors

By ANNE CAROTHERS-KAY

Register Staff Writer

Robert Herman Meier, convicted of defrauding the parents of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, told a federal grand jury last week that he knows nothing about the disappearance or whereabouts of the boy, according to court documents.

Meier, who was sentenced to three years in prison the day before his Nov. 15 grand jury appearance, outlined his testimony before the grand jury in a request, filed Wednesday, for a reduced prison sentence.

During Meier's sentencing, U.S. District Judge Harold D. Vietor said he would consider reducing the prison sentence if the 19-year-old Saginaw, Mich., man would declare what, if anything, he knew about Gosch.

Meier admitted he bilked John and Noreen Gosch of 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines and the "Help Find Johnny Gosch Fund" of approximately \$11,000 by telling the couple that he knew where their son was and that he would rescue the boy for \$10,000.

After collecting the \$10,000 and approximately \$1,000 more for expenses, Meier said he went to a Ten-

nessee dude ranch and arranged for a friend to write to the Gosches, telling them Meier had been killed in a shoot-out during the rescue attempt.

Meier's lawyer, Mark Bennett, who was not at the grand jury interview, said Meier says he told the grand jury he knew nothing about Gosch. "and I have no reason to doubt him."

Joseph Beck, the assistant U.S. attorney who questioned Meier before the grand jury, would not comment on what Meier told the panel.

Asked about Meier's disclosures to the grand jury, U.S. Attorney Richard Turner said, "I believe the case is at rest now," but wouldn't comment further.

Bennett said the U.S. attorney's office had initially offered a plea agreement to Meier, in which prosecutors would recommend a 1½-year sentence if Meier would tell the FBI what he knew about Gosch and take a lie-detector test.

Bennett said Meier turned down the deal not because of the lie-detector test but because "he and his family's relationship with the FBI has been less than cordial."

7-1053-Sub A-427  
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ABD

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# Home of school Volunteer of Year raided in sex probe

By TOM ALEX

Register Staff Writer

In the city's second pedophile investigation in less than a year, police have raided three Des Moines homes, including the residence of the local school district's Volunteer of the Year in 1985, in search of evidence.

**Steve Crawford**, 31, a volunteer worker at Edmunds Academy of Fine Arts, was suspended from his post at the elementary school earlier this week because of the police investigation, according to district spokesman Robert Baldwin.

Court documents say Crawford, of 1049 Eighteenth St., also worked last summer in a free-lunch program in city parks for children from low-income families. The program is run by Tiny Tot Child Care Center, 1409 Clark St., for Polk County.

Vice officers also conducted raids



STEVE CRAWFORD

Wednesday night at the home of Wilbur Millhouse, 2553 S.E. Maury St., and the residence of Robert Robbins, 720 Twentieth St., Apt. 2, according to police Sgt. Jack LeCroy.

No charges were filed against the men Thursday, police said.

The raids were carried out just as two cases from an earlier pedophile investigation are about to go to court. Stephen Woodcock and David Graham, both suspended Des Moines school teachers, are scheduled to go to court in separate trials early next month.

"It seems like we're only scratching the surface of pedophile victims in Des Moines," LeCroy said. "The longer we investigate, the more victims we hear about."

Most of the suspects have been involved in sexual encounters with male juveniles, he said.

According to court documents, the

RAIDS  
Please turn to Page 8A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
Page 1A and 8A  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 2/28/86  
Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;  
Title: UNSUB;  
EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

Character: KIDNAPING

or  
Classification: 7-1053 & 7-1145  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

## Police trace call to address

### RAIDS

Continued from Page One

investigation of Crawford began Monday, when police went to the Des Moines school board office to take a complaint from the parents of two boys, ages 14 and 11. The parents said that on Sunday, they found three letters written to the 14-year-old that contained "sexual matters."

During the search of Crawford's residence, police confiscated three notes allegedly written by Crawford, an address book, school papers, photos of juveniles and two Polaroid cameras, court documents say.

Court documents link Millhouse to sexual abuse complaints involving two 15-year-old boys in the spring and summer of 1985 and to alleged sexual solicitation involving a 14-year-old boy.

On Dec. 10, a sexually explicit call to a young boy was traced to the Millhouse address, police said.

Confiscated from the Millhouse residence were telephone bills, a memo book, a high school directory, eight pictures and negatives and other items, court papers say.

Millhouse had no comment on the police raid, except to say that, "I really don't know why they were here."

Robbins and Crawford could not be reached at their homes Thursday.

Court documents listing items seized at the Robbins residence were sealed by court order.

7-1053-Sub  
A-446

FEB 28 1986

FEB 28 1986

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# Police raids find no link to Gosch, Martin cases

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

An investigation by Des Moines police of suspected pedophiles has established no link to the disappearance of two Des Moines area newspaper carriers, police said Friday.

Des Moines police Lt. Marvin Brewer said the investigation "has revealed nothing at this time that indicates there is a connection" to the possible abductions of Johnny Gosch or Eugene Martin.

On Wednesday night, vice officers conducted raids in three Des Moines homes in search of evidence in what they described as a pedophile investigation. The raids followed complaints to Des Moines school officials by parents of two boys. No charges have been filed.

After the raids were publicized Friday, Noreen Gosch, Johnny Gosch's mother, said, "All systems seem favorable that if there is something there, we will have an answer. My husband and I are very concerned over the new information, but we have no details to make any judgments."

Since their son disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, the Gosches have said a pedo-

phile, a person who has sexual desires for children, likely was involved.

Police, however, have been unable to find any leads that would indicate who was responsible or how the 12-year-old Gosch disappeared. He had been delivering The Des Moines Sunday Register two blocks from his West Des Moines home.

He vanished almost two years before Aug. 12, 1984, when Eugene Martin, 14, who also was delivering the Sunday Register, disappeared from a south-side Des Moines neighborhood almost seven miles away.

Named in Friday's investigation were Steve Crawford of 1049 Eighteenth St., Robert Robbins of 720 Twentieth St., Apt. 2, and Wilbur Millhouse of 2553 S.E. Maury St.

Millhouse was a circulation district manager for The Des Moines Register from March 10, 1969, to Sept. 19, 1971, and from March 6, 1978, to June 4, 1983, according to company records.

NOREEN  
GOSCH

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 3/1/86

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;

Title:

UNSUB;

EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053 &amp; 7-1145

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-SubA-448

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

*MAR 19 1986*

*FEUDOJ*

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 6M  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date: 4/8/86  
 Edition: Morning

UNSUB;  
 Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7-1053  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

## Gosches quit advisory board on lost children

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

John and Noreen Gosch resigned Monday from the advisory board of the Iowa Runaway, Homeless and Missing Children Advisory Committee in Des Moines because of what they say is "undue criticism" by some board members.

"There are five or six people on the board who have been real kind to us. But there are others who have said we should never have handled things the way we have with our son, Johnny," said Noreen Gosch.

"They think we've come on too strong for missing children. They don't agree with the importance of missing children in relation to runaway children," she said.

Their son, Johnny, disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while he was delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, near his West Des Moines home. The Gosches were the only board members who are parents of a missing child.

Gosch, who did not identify those on the 15-member board who she said have criticized the family, will remain available to the committee.

"We feel we can function more freely if we do it off the board. We're going to continue doing what we have to do," she said.

Susan Gehring, coordinator, said the resignations were unfortunate.

"Nobody has said anything to me in criticism of the Gosches. The talk among the board has been about our business, and this is what we're going to do," she said.

462

7-1053-SubA-

Jnl Jnl

FBI/DOJ  
ASA W

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 6M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 4/24/86

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Title:

UNSUB;

EUGENE WADE MARTIN-VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053 &amp; 7-1145

Submitting Office: OMAHA

## Agency denies Gosch request for more staff

A proposal to add a staff member to the U.S. attorney's office to determine what happened to two missing Des Moines-area newspaper carriers has been rejected by law enforcement agencies, the mother of one of the carriers said Wednesday.

Noreen Gosch said a lawyer for her family, whom she did not identify, met with representatives of the agencies and with U.S. Attorney Richard Turner at Turner's office April 17. The lawyer proposed that the staff member would be paid with private money.

Gosch said the added investigator would have worked with the FBI, the state Division of Criminal Investigation and local police in the disappearances of her son, Johnny Gosch, and Eugene Martin.

Gosch said the agencies were opposed to the added investigator because they said it would duplicate their efforts. Turner declined to comment.

Gosch, then 12, disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register two blocks from his West Des Moines home. Martin, who was near his 14th birthday, vanished Aug. 12, 1984, a few blocks from his south Des Moines home while he was delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

Authorities say the boys apparently were abducted. Little information has been uncovered and the cases have not been connected.

7-1053-Sub A-477

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 26 1986	

FBI - DES MOINES

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, IowaDate: 7/11/86  
Edition: MorningUNSUB;  
Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIMUNSUB;  
Title: EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or  
Classification: 7-1053 & 7-1145

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# D.M. newspaper carrier escapes from assailant

By TOM ALEX

Register Staff Writer

A man wearing a camouflage poncho and hood attacked a newspaper carrier on the west side of Des Moines during a rainstorm Thursday morning, police said.

Jim Pollack, 15, a newspaper carrier with The Des Moines Register, told police the man came at him from behind in the 500 block of 42nd Street while he was delivering papers.

"He ran at me from the street," Pollack said later in the day. "I ran but he got a hold of me and pulled my arms back behind me. I kicked him in the shin and got away from him."

Pollack, of 656 40th St., said he couldn't see the man's face because it was concealed by the hood of the poncho.

"He was muscular. I could tell because of the grip he had on me," he said.

Shortly after the attack Pollack reached his house and called police. The officer who took the report labeled the crime an attempted abduction, but Pollack said he has no idea what the man's intentions were.

"He didn't say anything," Pollack said.

Pollack said that about six weeks ago he was chased home by a man while delivering papers.

Des Moines police say they will not rule out the possibility of a connection with the unsolved cases of missing Des Moines newspaper carrier Eugene Martin and missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier John Gosch.

Police had little information Thursday about the man who attacked Pollack. Although Pollack described his assailant as being "stocky," police say the man may only have appeared that way in a loose-fitting poncho.

Martin was 13 years old when he disappeared Aug. 12, 1984, and Gosch was 12 when he disappeared Sept. 5, 1982.

Des Moines Police Chief William Moulder said other law enforcement agencies have been alerted to the details of Thursday's incident.

7-1053-Sub A-504

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

JUL 11 1986

# Please help find our children...



John David Gosch Age 16  
Last Seen September 5, 1982  
West Des Moines, Iowa  
Stranger Abduction



Cinda Leann Pallett Age 18  
Last Seen September 25, 1981  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Stranger Abduction



Gabriel Minarcin Age 14  
Last Seen January 14, 1982  
Tarentum, Pennsylvania  
Stranger Abduction



Danyel Spargana Age 4  
Last Seen November 2, 1985  
Woodland, California  
Stranger Abduction

**Call us if you think you've  
seen one of our children.**

**1 800 843-5678**

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children  
1835 K Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006

# **Crime against children affects everyone. Don't let it affect your family.**

**Teach yourself...teach your children.**

## **TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

- Teach your children never to get into a car or go into a house without your permission.
- Don't leave your child alone in a public place, even for a moment.
- Teach your children that no one has a right to touch them ~~that~~ that they have the right to say NO.
- Listen when your children tell you they do not want to be with someone; there may be a reason.
- Don't put your child's name where a stranger can read it.

## **TIPS FOR KIDS:**

- Always keep your parents in sight in a public place. If you are separated from them in a store, ask a clerk for help.
- Remember to say NO, get away and tell someone when things don't seem right.
- Don't talk to strangers, adults don't ask children for directions.
- Never Hitchhike.
- Never Loiter at Shopping Malls or Arcades.



**The  
Lost Child Network<sub>®</sub>**  
Education, Awareness, Recovery  
Leawood, Kansas 913 649-5723

## THE LOST CHILD NETWORK

### ADDRESS:

Suite 351  
8900 State Line Road  
Leawood, KS 66206  
(913) 649-6723  
1-800-843-5678 (NCMEC, Washington, D.C. for sightings)



The  
**Lost Child Network**  
Education, Awareness, Recovery  
Leawood, Kansas 913 649-6723

### HISTORY:

In April, 1985, The Lost Child Network, an organization formed by volunteer police officers from the Kansas City metropolitan area, was incorporated in the state of Missouri as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation with headquarters in Leawood, Kansas.

### OBJECTIVE:

The Network aims to increase public awareness regarding the vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation and molestation and to promote prevention programs designed to effect successful solutions in these child victimization issues. The Network will provide widespread public exposure, through the assistance of our corporate sponsors and in cooperation with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, to photographs of missing children.

### PERSONNEL:

Joanna Engel, Full-time Admin. Sec.  
Roxie Clark, Volunteer

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (volunteers):

President	Det. Sgt. Craig Hill, Leawood, KS Police Dept.
Exec. VP	Officer Richard King, Gladstone, MO Dept. of Public Safety
Secretary	Officer Rick Dougan, Lenexa, KS Police Dept.
Treasurer	Officer Brenda Haupt, KCMO Police Dept.
VP	Curt Mathews, Director of Missing Children Unit, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Jefferson City
VP	Sgt. Steve Jensen, Kansas Highway Patrol, Olathe

SERVICES:

- Training Program for Professionals. Three or four day professional seminars presented by experts in child victimization. Tuition charged to cover seminar expenses.
- Public Awareness Programs (safety programs for children and adult education sessions for parents). No charge.
- Emergency Public Service Announcements. TV commercials featuring John Walsh and Actors Daniel Travanti and Peter Graves highlighting photograph of recently reported missing child to be aired in city of abduction. No charge. Upon notification of a missing child, we recommend the following guidelines be observed:
  - a. A Police Report must be filed immediately. There can be no waiting period.
  - b. Complete information on the missing child must be immediately entered into N.C.I.C. as well as other local systems.
  - c. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in Washington, D.C., HOTLINE: 1-800-843-5678, must be notified and the child placed on their rolls.
  - d. Arrest warrants must be issued on non-custodial abductions.
  - e. The Lost Child Network is notified.
- National distribution of Photographs/Safety Tips by corporate sponsors, i.e., K MART, REVCO and TARGET stores, OZARK INFOVIEW, SAFEWAY, members of the PHOTO MARKETING ASSOCIATION, and various newspapers and magazines. No charge.
- Legislation. Craig Hill, President of The Lost Child Network is a member of the Kansas Attorney General's task force on missing and exploited children. Curt Mathews, a Vice President, has been appointed Director of Missouri's newly formed Missing Children Unit.



The  
**Lost Child Network**,  
Education, Awareness, Recovery  
Leawood, Kansas 913 649-6723

8/18/86

PRESS RELEASE

James F. Ahearn, Special Agent in Charge, Omaha  
Division, FBI, announced the arrest today of [redacted]  
date of birth [redacted] for attempted Extortion  
and Fraud by Wire violations. The arrest was made at a Tulsa, b6  
Oklahoma, cafeteria without incident by Agents of the FBI b7C  
and Tulsa Police officers.

[redacted] will be charged with the attempted extortion  
of \$2,500 from [redacted] of missing  
John David Gosch, who disappeared on September 5, 1982, while  
delivering newspapers in West Des Moines, Iowa. [redacted] claimed  
to law enforcement officers posing as the [redacted] that he  
had current information regarding location of their missing  
son in Mexico, which he would exchange for money. In fact,  
[redacted] had no such information. RAK/JW  
⑧

[redacted] is being confined in Tulsa City-County Jail,  
Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is scheduled to appear Monday in Tulsa  
before the United States Magistrate for the Northern District  
of Oklahoma.

A similar extortion attempt was made against [redacted]  
[redacted] in 1985, which resulted in the arrest, conviction,  
and confinement of [redacted]

1 - SAC  
1 - ASAC  
1 - #3 Supervisor  
1 - #4 Supervisor  
1 - #5 Supervisor  
1 - SA [redacted]  
1 - SA [redacted]

JTA/ja

1\*

1 - Security & Complaint Assistants  
1 - IA [redacted]  
1 - IA [redacted]  
① - 7-1053  
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CRW:ls  
(12) JH

7-1053-Sub A-512  
Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
Serialized JH  
Indexed \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed JH

b6  
b7C

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/17/86

Edition: Sunday Morning

Title: UNSUB;  
JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Man arrested in attempted Gosch scam

**Agents pose as parents  
of missing W.D.M. boy**

By PAULA YOST

Register Staff Writer

Almost four years after West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch disappeared on his Sunday morning paper route, FBI agents have nabbed a man who allegedly attempted to swindle the boy's parents.

According to an FBI news release, David James Schultz, 36, of Syracuse, N.Y., was arrested in a Tulsa, Okla., cafeteria Saturday after he told FBI agents posing as John and Noreen Gosch that their son was alive in Mexico. Schultz allegedly said he would help the Gosches find their son for \$2,500.

Schultz faces extortion and fraud charges and is scheduled to appear Monday in Tulsa before the U.S. magistrate for the northern district of Oklahoma.

The arrest marks the second extortion attempt against the Gosches.

On Aug. 22, 1985, Robert Herman Meier II of Saginaw, Mich., was convicted of fraud for collecting \$11,000 after he told the Gosches their son was being held as a slave in Mexico. He told them the Hell's Angels motorcycle club was involved in their son's disappearance. Meier is serving a three-year prison term.

Noreen Gosch said Saturday she received a call at 5 a.m. Friday from a man claiming he possessed information that would lead to her son's whereabouts.

"He wanted us to fly to Tulsa and meet him. He even went to the trouble of reserving seats on an airline for us," she said. "He told me he would not call again. He specified an airline and booked passage for our flight. He said he would contact me at 8 o'clock [Saturday]. . . . He did not go into too many details over the phone. He was very vague, so we just kind of followed orders."

Gosch said she notified the West Des Moines police and the FBI. "They decided to send FBI agents in our place because we had no idea who we were dealing with," she said.

Gosch said she was pleased with the way the incident was handled by police and federal agents. "It was handled with the least amount of stress to our family as possible," she said.

Johnny Gosch disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register. He was 12 years old at the time. Another Des Moines youth, Eugene Martin, then 14, disappeared from his Des Moines Sunday Register newspaper route Aug. 12, 1984.

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18000

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# Accused man read in library about Gosches

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A Syracuse, N.Y., man charged with attempting to defraud the parents of missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier

**Johnny Gosch** learned about the Gosches after reading an article about them at a library, an official said Monday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Keith Ward of Tulsa, Okla., said there was no reason to believe that the New York man, David James Schultz, 36, knows anything about the newspaper carrier, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register near his home.

Schultz was arrested Saturday and accused of attempting to defraud Noreen and John Gosch in a scheme that was similar to one last year that landed another man in prison.

Schultz was being held without bond Monday in a Tulsa jail. He is to appear Thursday before a federal magistrate at a bond hearing.

The fraud and extortion charges against Schultz carry a combined 25-year prison term and fines totaling \$500,000.

Noreen Gosch said an anonymous telephone call she received Friday from a man sounded "somewhat similar" in its details to a scheme by Robert H. Meier of Saginaw, Mich., who is serving time for swindling the couple last year out of \$11,000.

Friday's caller told Gosch he could locate her son in exchange for \$2,500. A meeting was arranged, the FBI was alerted, and Schultz was arrested in Tulsa. He was taken into custody in a Tulsa cafeteria by FBI agent John Harrington and Tulsa police officer Pauline Kracht, who were posing as the Gosches.

Ward, the federal prosecutor in Tulsa, said he did not know if Schultz had read about Meier bilking the Gosches. But the incident had been widely publicized.

Noreen Gosch said of the person who called Friday: "He said he was a cocaine dealer and a pilot and had seen Johnny in Mexico and could take us to him."

Meier, who met with the Gosches at the Kansas City airport after telephoning them, told the couple he had seen their son in Mexico. Meier said he had been dealing in drugs, and the boy was being held "like a pet" near Mexico City. He told the Gosches he could take them to him.

According to Ward, Schultz had been in Tulsa about two weeks and was unemployed and living at a rescue mission there. He had drawn a map that he said would lead the Gosches to their son, Ward said.

Schultz also is being held for violating a New York parole stemming from a theft conviction, Ward said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/19/86

Edition: Morning

UNSUB;

Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

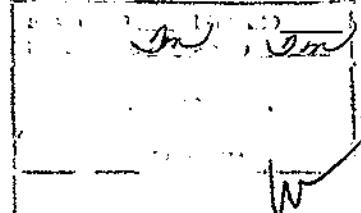
or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

7-1053-SubA-517



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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page 42

Omaha World Herald  
Omaha, NebraskaDate: 9/17/86  
Edition:Title: "Mother of Johnny Gosch  
Says She Knows Abductors"

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: OMAHA

①

Indexing:

# Mother of Johnny Gosch Says She Knows Abductors

Des Moines (AP) — The mother of missing paper boy Johnny Gosch said Tuesday that she and police know who abducted her son four years ago and that police are "doing everything within their legal boundaries" to arrest them.

Noreen Gosch said that she has known the identities of three Des Moines men and a pedophile "contact" in Houston for six months, and that her knowledge has caused many threats against members of her family.

She declined to identify the men. Lt. Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines police, who has worked on the Gosch disappearance, said he was aware of Mrs. Gosch's statements but would have no comment.

"The Johnny Gosch disappearance case is an active investigation," he said. "We will act on any information furnished to us." He would not say whether police know the identities of the abductors.

Mrs. Gosch had vague answers to several questions, saying her press release had "hidden messages" that the abductors would understand. She said there was a risk that the kidnappers would try to flee, but "that would be revealing, too, wouldn't it?"

Gosch disappeared while preparing to deliver Sunday newspapers near his West Des Moines home Sept. 5, 1982.

"We now have evidence providing the identity (of the abductors)," Mrs.

Gosch said. "The crime was organized. We know who these people are and where they are located. We have received very serious threats to members of the family concerning this aspect of the investigation. It is in our best interest to bring this information out to the public."

She said the abductors know she knows who they are but may not know she also has told police.

The family, she said, has canceled its offer of a \$200,000 reward for information leading to Johnny's whereabouts. Rewards from other sources still are available, she said.

Mrs. Gosch has been strongly critical of police efforts to find her son in the past, but she said police are now cooperating. "Police have been apprised of every development," she said.

She wouldn't say what is being done to apprehend the men, however. "At this time, they are doing everything within their legal boundaries. We know who they are. I can't comment on what's happening legally.

"There's a lot I can't tell you."

7A-1053-Sub A-524

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 17 1986	
FBI-OMAHA	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosch: I know who kidnapped my son

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Noreen Gosch, mother of the West Des Moines newspaper carrier who has been missing for four years, said Tuesday that she knows who kidnapped her son, but she would not say who it was.

At a press conference she called, Gosch said the family's investigation has uncovered names of suspects and concluded that an organized effort was behind Johnny Gosch's abduction. She said she knew of three persons, including two Des Moines-area men, who were involved.

She would not give details about her suspicions, except to say that two of the men were more than 40 years old and that the third had lived in Houston, Texas.

Gosch said her information wasn't strong enough "at this time" to support the arrest of the men. She said the information came from three persons, one of whom was in prison.

"There have been severe threats against our family. I've done this for peace of mind for the family," she said in explaining why she called a press conference. She said the announcement also had a "hidden message that only the abductors would understand."

She would not discuss the nature of the threats or who she suspects made them.

Gosch said she had given the information to West Des Moines police and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation but they declined to join in announcing that leads had emerged in the case.

West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney said the investigation of Gosch's disappearance Sept. 5, 1982, continues but declined other comment.

A source close to the investigation said, however, that Gosch had supplied the information to police but had declined to say where it came from. "We have no way of checking it out without knowing where it came from," the source said. He said investigators were "skeptical without knowing more."

Investigators haven't uncovered leads that point to what happened to Johnny Gosch. There has been speculation that he was abducted by a person who lives in or near Des Moines.

The disappearance of newspaper carrier Eugene Martin Aug. 12, 1984, from a south Des Moines neighborhood may be connected, say investigators, but there has been no evidence to link the two. Martin, like Gosch, was delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

Gosch said the private investigation disclosed that her son was taken by people who deal in children mostly for pornographic purposes. The suspects, she said, were involved in other abductions, including that of Martin.

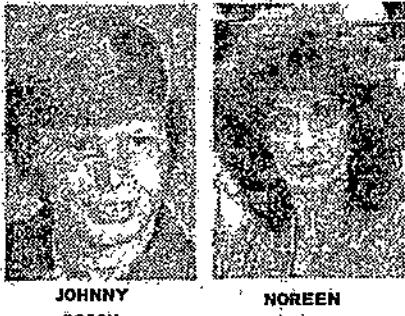
Gosch said she was making the announcement to put the "kidnappers" on notice that she and her husband, John, continue to work "against overwhelming odds" to unravel the mystery.

"This may not be completely understood by the public," she said, but "we want to tell those responsible that we know who they are."

Gosch said she was withdrawing a reward, which she said totaled "several hundred thousands of dollars," for the safe return of her son. She would not say why. She said the decision did not affect a \$125,000 reward pledged by the newspaper and several businesses.

Asked if she thinks her son is alive, Gosch said, "I can't comment on his condition."

Earlier, she had said her son probably was dead.

JOHNNY  
GOSCH.NOREEN  
GOSCH

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 5M

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 9/17/86

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

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SA (JF) 7-1053-SubA 525

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SERIALIZED <i>Ind</i>	FILED <i>JW</i>
SEP 17 1986	
FBI - OMAHA	
<i>FM DOJ</i>	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Missing children's folks changed by their ordeals

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

During one of his sleepless early mornings, John Gosch made a surprising discovery while retracing the newspaper route his son disappeared from four years ago:

"I noticed something that I've never noticed before," he said. "There is a church parking lot behind our house. You can stand there and look and see if Johnny's light is on in his room."

Gosch has gotten out of bed many early Sunday mornings and quietly walked the route through the West Des Moines neighborhood looking for things that have gone unnoticed and for solace, the chance to be near where his 12-year-old had been.

But the discovery in the parking lot brought excitement. It added to his and his wife Noreen's suspicion that before Johnny Gosch disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, he had been stalked. Someone watched the boy's room, Gosch suspects, then kidnapped him. It was an organized effort to get children for pornography, the Gosches believe.

## Massive Effort

Authorities have neither rejected nor endorsed the theory. After a massive effort that has included the FBI, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation and local police, investigators do not know what happened.

Equally baffling is the disappearance Aug. 12, 1984, of Eugene Martin, 13, of Des Moines. He also was delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register near his home. The cases may be connected, but police simply don't know.

While the mysteries persist and remain the same, the lives of those who have been swept up by it have changed.

Don Martin, Eugene's father, and Sue Martin, his stepmother, have separated.

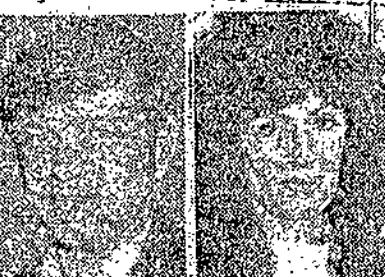
"It got too much, the stress of it," Don Martin says. "I was going up the wall, and we just couldn't handle it." They now live apart in Des Moines.

## Criticizes Police

Noreen Gosch, who has bitterly attacked the police for what she has called a botched investigation, now appears to withhold the public salvos, and some say she may have mellowed.

John Gosch, however, doesn't see the change.

"It's gotten to a point," he says,

JOHN  
GOSCHNOREEN  
GOSCH

where we've become exhausted with trying to come up with every type of thing we possibly can. We've tried every angle we can to explain what happened. We've relied on experts and on people who've been through this and have come up with some ideas ourselves and it still hasn't worked.

"After four years," he says, "it's like being in a concentration camp. Your body and your mind wear out."

Noreen Gosch has "changed the focus," she says, but she and her husband haven't withdrawn from the search.

## Deeply Hurt

"I think solving this is within our grasp," she says. Of her husband, she says, "I see a man who has been so deeply hurt. He was a good father, a hard-working man. He has been cut to the bone by this. We both loved Johnny very much."

"We're different people now. We have had to learn who we are," she says.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1B and 6B  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 9/7/86  
Edition: Sunday Morning

UNSUB;  
Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;  
UNSUB;  
EUGENE WADE MARTIN - VICTIM;  
Character: KIDNAPING  
or  
Classification: 7-1053 & 7-1145  
Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

The Gosches remain married, and live in the same West Des Moines home. The marriage has had its troubling moments.

"I've said to him at the door that when he comes back I wish he'd bring back the same fellow I used to know," she says.

Don and Sue Martin, although apart, still distribute posters. Don Martin is reminded of missing children when he's at shopping centers and sees "all those kids wandering around without their parents."

## Still Has Hopes

There are days when he thinks Eugene is dead, but he says he still has hopes that somehow, miraculously, his son will return.

The Gosches maintain hope, but they have their black days, too. They

## ANNIVERSARY

Please turn to Page 6B

7-1053-Sub A-530

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✓ ✓

# Gosches maintain hope, but have days of despair

## ANNIVERSARY

*Continued from Page 1B*

distribute posters with Johnny's picture, even though it's four years old.

"We know he probably wouldn't look the same, but if he is alive and he sees it maybe it will help bring him back," John Gosch says.

A few leads trickle in for both investigations, says West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney, but they are mostly unconfirmed sightings. The tips come from people who think they've seen the boys but have no more information.

Among the callers is a West Coast psychic who claims his house has been surrounded by the CIA. A woman who phoned Martin was the same woman who contacted police and reported seeing all three dozen missing children in a recent missing person booklet.

### Dangles a Nut

An Arizona man who travels the country calls occasionally and asks if there has been progress in the investigations. He is a diviner who dangles a nut at the end of a string over a map. He says the nut has the power to spot where the boys are buried.

Steven Ziebell, program coordinator for the Porter Avenue Center for Education, an "alternative" high school, studied the Gosches and Martins and other parents of missing children for a doctoral dissertation.

"Children are not supposed to disappear from families," he says. "It's a deep tragedy that the culture tends to underestimate."

"There is a survivor guilt. While they have three square meals a day and a roof over their heads, the parents are not sure what their child has. Most parents would rather sacrifice, but the hardest thing is not knowing what has happened."

Ziebell says that considerably more than half the couples of missing children either separate or are divorced because of the stress.

"Some put their energies into activities and some find religion. They try to make some sense and meaning out of what has happened and make it somewhat acceptable."

He says, "The Gosches have my respect. They have accepted the differences in each other."

# MISSING

## JOHN DAVID GOSCH



Taken 81/82 School Year



Taken Febr. '82



Fair Photo '82

**DESCRIPTION:** Age: 13 years old, D.O.B.: Nov. 12, 1969, Ht.: 5'7" Wt.: 145 lbs. Hair: light brown, Eyes: blue, Complexion: medium Teeth: gaps between front teeth, Shoe Size: 9½-10, Marks/Scars: freckles, large birthmark upper left chest, horseshoe shaped scar on tongue, large lower lip. Stature: At 13 years old, John has the physical appearance of a boy 15 or older.

John David Gosch was last seen on Sunday, September 5, 1982 at approximately 6:06 A.M. He was believed to have been **abducted** when starting his paper route at 42nd and Marcourt Lane in West Des Moines, Iowa.

John was believed to have been wearing a white sweat shirt with the words KIM'S ACADEMY on the back of it along with black warm up pants and blue rubber thongs. Missing also with John is his yellow paperbag and wire cutters.

## REWARD

A \$25,000.00 REWARD has been offered for the safe return of John David Gosch in addition to a \$10,000.00 REWARD for information leading to his whereabouts.

Anyone having information to John's whereabouts, please call : LOCAL F.B.I OFFICE or INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCH AGENCY, INC. (312) 745-1111 or John's parents JOHN and NOREEN GOSCH at (515) 225-7456.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  
 Page 1M and 6M  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 12/19/86  
 Edition: Morning

UNSUB;  
 Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7-1053  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Man gets prison term for trying to defraud Gosches

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

David James Schultz, who said he could find missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, has been sentenced to five years in prison for attempting to bilk Gosch's parents.

Authorities said Schultz, 36, a Syracuse, N.Y., native, engineered the scheme after reading in a periodical at a Tulsa, Okla., library about the boy's apparent abduction.

Schultz had telephoned the Gosches and offered to lead them to their son in exchange for \$2,500. He was sentenced Wednesday for wire fraud by U.S. District Judge James O. Ellison in Tulsa.

Schultz was arrested in August at a Tulsa cafeteria by two FBI agents posing as John and Noreen Gosch. No



money was exchanged.

The sentencing ended yet another bizarre twist in the mystery that has surrounded the missing youngster since he disappeared Sept. 5, 1982,

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 6M

*Rec'd WDTOR  
12/21/86*

*(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)*

*7-105 b6 Sub A-552*

SEARCHED	b7C	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	<i>thru</i>	FILED
DEC 19 1986		
FBI/DOJ		

## Scheme against Gosches similar to earlier case

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page 1M*

while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register near his home. He was 12 years old.

Investigators have been unable to find a shred of information to indicate what happened to him. Although the case is suspiciously similar to the disappearance of Eugene Martin, au-

thorities have been unable to link the two. Martin, then 14, vanished Aug. 12, 1984, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register near his south-side home.

Schultz is the second man to go to prison for attempting to swindle the Gosches. On Aug. 22, 1985, Robert Herman Meier II of Saginaw, Mich., was convicted of fraud for collecting \$11,000 after he told the parents their son was being held as a slave in Mexico. He is serving a three-year term.

"Now that he is going to jail, the man got what he deserved," Noreen Gosch said of Schultz Thursday. "On top of all the pain we have suffered, it's a shame that we have to be victims of this kind of creep as well."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Keith Ward, in Tulsa, said Schultz had no knowledge of the missing youngster. He said the scheme was similar to the story Meier told to the Gosches, but Ward said he did not know if Schultz had copied Meier's story.

During the sentencing, Schultz told Judge Ellison he wanted to get arrested by federal authorities to give them information about organized crime, Ward said.

"He dreamed up that story after he was arrested, we determined," Ward said. "The circumstances of his arrest were not consistent with his wanting to be arrested."

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pg. 15B

Omaha World Herald

Omaha, Nebraska

Date: 8/30/87

Edition:

Title: "Mrs. Gosch: Pain Doesn't Diminish"

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: OMAHA

*Johnny Disappeared Five Years Ago*

# Mrs. Gosch: Pain Doesn't

## Diminish

Des Moines (AP) — Late one recent night, Urbandale, Iowa, police got a breathless call from a man saying a hitchhiker had made off with his new luxury car and had taken his 7-year-old son as well.

Police jumped to action, and instantly even the FBI was notified.

Several years ago, the procedure might have been different. Then, reports of runaway or missing children were filed, but police assumed that the children soon would show up unharmed, and they were usually correct.

That was before Johnny Gosch, a West Des Moines paperboy, turned up missing five years ago Sept. 5.

The lonely search continues for Gosch, now 17 if he's alive, but the legacy of the case has made police keenly aware of missing children cases.

### No 24-Hour Wait

After the call in Urbandale, police instantly flashed descriptions of the car and driver to law officers in the area. Soon, they were broadcast statewide. Nearby states were notified, and the descriptions were put in a national crime computer.

As a matter of policy, FBI agents rushed to the Urbandale station, and agents of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation also converged there. The news media were notified.

The hunt was on.

"We used to wait 24 hours," said Lt. Delbert King, who handled the Urbandale case. "But then with the Johnny Gosch case, we kind of saw the fallacy in that."

As it turned out, the Urbandale report was a false alarm. Six hours later, the boy was safe with his grandmother. The father, a discouraged drifter, was charged with filing a false report.

There have been no happy endings for the Gosch family, however.

### Publicity Abandoned

"The pain doesn't diminish," said his mother, Noreen Gosch, who has given up her publicity campaign to get Johnny back.

"A lot of people say to us, 'I suppose it's easier now that it's five years.' But it isn't. You hear a particular song that was his favorite ... it pierces the heart."



John and Noreen Gosch ... Boy's parents blame police for slow response.

She remembers the last time she saw him, the night of Sept. 4.

"He walked up to me, he was already taller than me, and he said, 'Mom, I'll always love you, remember that. I'll never forget it.'

The next morning, Johnny left to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register. His wagon full of papers was found, but the boy disappeared without a trace.

Mrs. Gosch blames slow police response for letting the abductors get away.

7-1053-Sub-A-562

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
Aug 30 1987	
FBI/DOJ	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

Lt. Lyle McKinney, the West Des Moines detective who has coordinated the investigation, responded, "We did what we thought was right."

Soon, however, there were massive searches and huge rewards, along with a sustained news media campaign by Mrs. Gosch and her husband, John, to find the boy.

Not one solid lead has been found.

#### False Reports

The case was made all the more painful by false reports.

Dollar bills bearing the message "I am alive" were found, and the Gosches were swindled of more than \$11,000 by a Saginaw, Mich., man who claimed the boy was being held prisoner in Mexico. Robert Herman Meier, now 21, was convicted of fraud and is in prison.

Posters bearing Johnny's picture were sent across the country. Enormous pictures and messages were pasted on the sides of semitrailer trucks.

The Gosches criticized police, saying they were dragging their feet.

"There have been critics who were outraged with us because we fought for our child," Mrs. Gosch said recently. "Does this mean they wouldn't fight for their own children?"

In spring 1984, the Iowa Legislature approved what was known as the Johnny Gosch Bill requiring police to respond immediately to missing children cases. A month after it went on the books, Aug. 12, there was a second disappearance with eerie similarities.

#### Eugene Martin

Eugene Martin, then 13, vanished while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register to a southside Des Moines area. As in the Gosch case, there were no witnesses.

Police responded rapidly this time, but no trace was found.

The boy's father, Don Martin, recently said he is convinced that his son is alive and has been forced to be someone's slave, perhaps overseas. Because of similarities between the cases, many investigators suspect a connection, but it never has been proven.

Mrs. Gosch said she is convinced that she knows the name and address of a man who was involved.

"He is under observation. We'll wait until he makes a mistake," she said.

"Someone who would steal one child and then come back and steal another could very well take a third one."

Sam Swaim of the Criminal Investigation Division declined to say whether there was a suspect.

"We continue to pursue leads in the Gosch case, although they're getting few and far between," he said.

#### National Effort

The Gosches testified before congressional hearings and worked toward creation of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in June 1984.

"The Johnny Gosch case was one of several cases that gained national attention and made it clear that the issue of missing children was a national issue," said Barbara Chapman, spokeswoman for the center.

In its first three years, she said, the center fielded reports of 14,735 cases. Of those, 7,967 children were found alive and 90 were found dead. The rest remained unaccounted for.

Of the reports, almost all are either runaways or stolen by relatives, usually parents who don't have custody. Only 432 were abducted by strangers. Of those, 179 have been returned, and 13 are dead.

The rest are missing, including Eugene Martin and Johnny Gosch.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Gosch case files 5th year of pranks, scams and hope

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

An Ohio man recently was in Des Moines with a yellowed copy of a national tabloid that said he could collect a large reward if he found missing newspaper carriers Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin.

"Let me ask you," he said to an investigator. "What happened?"

Five years — almost to the day — after the disappearance of Gosch, the first of the two Des Moines-area boys to be abducted in similar circumstances, the question still is asked.

Neither the authorities, including local and state investigators and the FBI, nor a parade of private investigators and clairvoyants and fortune hunters like the Ohio man who is after a reward, have picked up a trail.

Donald and Sue Martin, father and stepmother of the missing boy, have parted because of strain of the abduction, they say. At the home of Noreen and John Gosch, the phone still occasionally rings with calls from cruel pranksters. "Is Johnny home?" they ask and hang up.

## Two Sides of People

"There is a side where people have been extremely kind," says Noreen Gosch. "And there's the flip side, the smaller side, of extreme negative responses."

On Sept. 5, 1982, Johnny Gosch climbed out of bed shortly before 6 a.m. The 12-year-old left his West Des Moines home with his wagon and dog.

At a newspaper drop-off point a few blocks away, he gathered bundles of The Des Moines Sunday Register. He was seen by other carriers talking to a man who sat in a parked car. Then Gosch walked alone down the street into the early morning darkness and vanished.

The dog returned home. The wagon was found a few blocks from where Gosch picked up his papers. The newspapers were untouched. There was no noise, no sign of a struggle, no ransom note to follow.

Eugene Martin, 13, left his house early Aug. 12, 1984. He walked a few blocks in the south Des Moines neighborhood to pick up bundles of The

JOHNNY  
GOSCHEUGENE  
MARTIN

Sunday Register. Some people who passed by said they saw the youngster folding papers.

## Some Papers Folded

Hours later, Eugene Martin's paper bag was found at the drop site. Some papers were folded and stuffed into the bag. There was nothing else.

Police have been unable to connect the two abductions although there are similarities, including the age of the boys and circumstances of their disappearances.

There have been no confirmed sightings of the youngsters, authorities say, although there have been hundreds of such calls. There are suspicions that the boys are dead, that the abductions were planned. West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney, one of the key investigators, says the hope the boys are alive hasn't been abandoned.

The Goshes continue the search and to burn a porch light in the hope their son may return. This year they celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

"We were always close," says Noreen Gosch. "John and I are best friends. If we don't keep together as a team, nobody else is going to keep up the search."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 5M  
THE DES MOINES REGISTER  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Date: Fri., 9/4/87  
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Character:  
or 7-1053  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:

7-1053-Sub A-566

JW JW

FD-360

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# What might Johnny Gosch look

## like today? FBI guesses

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

If Johnny Gosch, the West Des Moines newspaper carrier missing since 1982, is still alive, what does he look like now?

Does he resemble his father more than his mother? Is his face thinner or rounder? Has he kept the boyish look?

The FBI, assembling an unusual combination of technology and police work for the first time, is attempting to find the answers in a case that has baffled investigators for more than 5½ years.

Two technicians from the FBI's laboratories in Washington, D.C., visited Des Moines Wednesday to begin making a computer picture of what the youngster might look like today.

JOHNNY  
GOSCHNOREEN  
GOSCHJOHN  
GOSCH

He was 12 years old when he disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

The FBI technique, known as the Face Aging System, will use a video camera to scan the most recent photograph of Gosch. The image will be reproduced digitally by a computer and altered by a technician.

"You'll find that as children get older, their noses gain at the bridge and their lower jaw develops. They

are losing that baby fat," said Gene O'Donnell, the FBI's visual specialist, during his Des Moines visit.

The technique has been used to help plastic surgeons reconstruct faces. The FBI also expects to use it to "age" felons who have been on the lam for years.

O'Donnell and Horace Heafner, chief of graphics, photographed the faces of parents Noreen and John Gosch several times at their home and gathered old pictures of the couple, some dating back to their teen years. The photos will provide a wealth of information on how their faces developed and are constructed, details that influence the looks of their son.

Johnny Gosch won't have his father's dimple, but likely will have the chin of his mother. The youngster definitely will look like his dad, but have influences from his mother," O'Donnell said. The face will be

stretched, likely thinner, and resemble his last photos.

"There will be maturing and skull growth, which stops at the age of 16," O'Donnell said.

Expected to be ready in two months, the picture of the aged youngster will be 80 to 90 percent accurate, said Heafner, unless Gosch has gained or lost considerable weight or has been injured or scarred. The picture will then be distributed.

Heafner said the FBI chose Gosch for its first computer aging effort because of "the keen interest in the case."

Gosch left his West Des Moines home early Sunday on the 1982 Labor Day weekend. He picked up newspapers at a drop site a few blocks away, and rolled his wagon up the street to begin his route. The wagon, laden

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M and 6M

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Fri., 3/11/88

Edition: Daily

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH -

VICTIM;

KIDNAPING

Character: or OO: OMAHA

Classification: OM 7-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:

7-1053-SubA-573

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 2 1988	
FBI - OMAHA	

GOSCH

Please turn to Page 6M

## FBI to create Gosch 'photograph'

### GOSCH

Continued from Page 1M  
with undelivered newspapers, was found untouched on a nearby sidewalk.

A massive and continuing search by local, state and federal investigators has been unable to find a shred of information that would indicate what

happened to the boy or if he is alive.

Investigators say they have no information to indicate he is dead.

Almost two years later, on Aug. 12, 1984, Eugene Martin, 13, also disappeared in the early hours while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register. He was in a south Des Moines neighborhood near his home, some

seven miles from where Gosch vanished.

Police suspect Martin was abducted, but have no other information. They have been unable to link the two mysterious cases.

There are no plans to construct a computer-aged face of Martin, said Heafner.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 6/9/88

Edition: Daily

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;

KIDNAPING

Character: OO: OM (7-1053)

or

Classification: Omaha Division

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

# FBI makes guess at how Gosch looks today

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

Using a new computer technique, the FBI has aged the face of newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, who vanished without a trace almost six years ago.

The drawing, released Wednesday, shows a mature young man with thin eyebrows, pronounced lips and a narrow nose, characteristics that were evident in the last known photos of Gosch taken in 1982 when he was 12 years old.

But the face is also different, longer and thinner than the boy whose picture has appeared on thousands of posters nationwide.

"We've seen it and we're pleased," said Noreen Gosch, his mother, after viewing the drawing. "We see resemblances to members of our family."

Prepared at the FBI labs in Washington, D.C., the picture is actually a

pencil drawing of what a computer might have produced. An FBI spokesman said technicians had the software to make a drawing, but lacked the hardware to make a clear image.

"We got something that looked like a television picture. It just wasn't good enough to reproduce," he said.

A technician drew an exact copy of the computer image and the resulting picture was made public.

The drawing is to be used as an investigative tool, a guide to law enforcement officers who wonder what the missing Gosch may look like today. It will not be posted publicly.

Gosch left his West Des Moines home early Sunday of the 1982 Labor Day weekend to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register. After picking up his newspapers at a drop site, he rolled his wagon up the sidewalk

and disappeared. The wagon was found about a block away with the paper bundles untouched. There were no signs of the youngster.

Almost two years later, in a south Des Moines neighborhood, Register newspaper carrier Eugene Martin, 12, disappeared without a trace in the early morning hours of Aug. 12, 1984, also a Sunday.

The FBI and police have no leads in either case. They suspect the two were kidnapped but have been unable to link the cases or determine if either of the youngsters is alive.

There are no plans to construct a computer-aged face of Martin at this time, according to the FBI. FBI officials gave no reason, but a technician said earlier they wanted to see how the procedure worked with Gosch.

Known as the Face Aging System,

the FBI technique uses a video camera to scan the most recent photographs of a subject. The image is then reproduced digitally by a computer and then altered by a technician.

Technicians photographed the faces of parents Noreen and John Gosch several times at their home and gathered old pictures of the couple, some dating to their teen years.

According to technicians, the photos provide a wealth of information on how the faces of the couple developed and are constructed, details that influence the looks of their son.

The procedure has been used to help plastic surgeons reconstruct faces. The FBI also expects to use it to "age" felons who have been on the lam for years.

7-1053-Sub A-503

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 9 1988	
FBI — OMAHA	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# A moment of silence for 'Class of 19 Never'

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

There will be a moment of silence at Valley High School's graduation ceremonies Sunday, a stillness that will speak loudly about teen-agers growing up in the 1980s.

Five students who might have been among the 490 graduating seniors won't be there. They have, in widely separate circumstances, been kidnapped, slain, killed by accident or died of natural causes.

"I've never seen this many missing," says Principal Robert Brooks, who will ask that the fieldhouse crowd be hushed "in memory of those students who could have been part of the 1988 graduating family."

"These are the kids who in the last 13 years since they started in kindergarten could have been here," he says.

Johnny Gosech might have been on stage. He was 12 years old and a seventh-grader when he was kidnapped Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering newspapers near his West Des Moines home. He remains missing.

Harold Ketelsen Jr. was killed by a bullet that penetrated a window of his home in 1986 as he sat on a cot in his bedroom. Police say the shooting was the result of a neighborhood dispute.

Franklin Sanchez collapsed in a school darkroom in 1986 when he intentionally inhaled Freon from an aerosol can, apparently as a lark. His heart developed an irregular beat and stopped.

James Olson died last year in a hospital after developing intestinal problems.

Kyle Douglas Wiesner was killed May 13 when the car he was riding in left a curve three miles north of Winterset and rolled several times. During the ceremonies, his brother Bryan, a sophomore at Valley, will go to the stage to receive Kyle's diploma.

Brooks says the missing classmates have been on the graduates' minds.

"I read a poem at practice yesterday and you could hear a pin drop. It was written by a mother of a graduating student and she's called it,

**VALLY**  
Please turn to Page 10A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1A & 10A

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: Fri., 5/27/88

Edition: Daily

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

Character: OO: OM (7-1053)

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

Indexing:

7-1053-Sub A-504

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1988	

b6  
b7c

## Valley honors 5 absent pupils

### VALLEY

Continued from Page One

'Class of 19 Never.'

"Youth swaggers with immortality, death's sting seems never real;

A careless fling and now death's sting is chasing at your heels."

"The poem seems to capture the fragility of life," says Brooks. "I think the students realize they have to step back and take a look at how precious it is."

Noreen Gosch, mother of the missing newspaper carrier, says neither she nor her husband will attend the ceremony.

"I have tried to put it out of my mind that he would be graduating now," she says. "The last week has been real hard, more difficult than I anticipated. You have to put these painful things aside because that's the way to cope."

"But you keep getting these flashbacks. We still think of him as a 12-year-old and wonder what he would have been like if he were here. Then there's a big empty space of time. I think I've been doing more crying in the last week than I've done in the last two years."

Gosch says she is touched by the school's decision to have the silent memorial.

"It's nice of them to care enough for their fellow students to do this and for the officials to allow it to hap-



HAROLD  
KETELSEN JR.



FRANKLIN  
SANCHEZ



JAMES  
OLSON



KYLE DOUGLAS  
WIESNER



JOHNNY  
GOSCH

pen," she says.

"Nothing beyond this is necessary. It shouldn't dampen the day for the kids who are going out into the world. I mean this is their day. I hope it doesn't have a real depressing effect on those wonderful kids."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Gosch today?**

The FBI, using a new computer technique, has created this image of what newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, who disappeared in 1982, might look like today. STORY: 1M.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 6/9/88

Edition: Daily

Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH -  
 VICTIM;  
 KIDNAPING  
 Character:  
 or OO: Omaha (7-1053)  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: Omaha Division

Indexing:

7-1053-Sub A-595

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1988	
FBI - OMAHA	
b6 b7c	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Noreen Gosch running for open city council seat

By MELANIE LEWIS

Register Staff Writer

Noreen Gosch, mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, is among four people running for a vacant West Des Moines City Council seat.

Gosch, who has been at the forefront of efforts to find missing children since her son's disappearance in 1982, said she decided to run for the at-large seat left vacant by the resignation of Councilman Gary Davidson because she could bring "new blood to the council."

Davidson quit in May to protest a move by three council members to fire City Manager John Bryan. Bryan, who was city manager for seven years, resigned Monday because the dispute had taken its toll on his staff, he said.

If elected, Gosch, 44, said she would concentrate her efforts on safety programs to make sure the city is equipped to handle any emergency. "With the rate of growth of the population and industry we must make sure we have adequate emergency services," she said.

During the past 5½ years, Gosch said, she has gained experience in crime prevention and public safety through her work with organizations that try to find missing children, including the Iowa Runaway, Homeless and Missing Children Advisory Committee. Gosch and her husband, John, later resigned from the organization because of what they say was criticism from board members who thought they were putting too much emphasis on missing children.

Johnny Gosch disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register near the family's West Des Moines home. Since then, his parents have worked for legislation to make it easier for authorities and parents to obtain information about missing children.



**Noreen Gosch**  
Concerned with safety programs

Noreen Gosch said her bid for the council seat is not prompted by any dissatisfaction with the present city administration, although she has criticized the West Des Moines Police Department's handling of her son's disappearance.

The Gosches accused the department of negligence because they say police officials considered their son a runaway and were slow to respond to his disappearance. The couple also accused the police of not interviewing people who were around at the time of the disappearance.

Gosch is office manager for Ecolab Inc. in Des Moines. She also runs a nail care business and teaches exercise classes for the West Des Moines School District's continuing education program.

Also running for the council seat are:

- Mary Francis Rodish, who was appointed to fill the vacancy until the Aug. 23 election.

The biggest issue facing the city will be the decision to build new fire

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 7/1/88

Edition: Daily

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

Character: OO: OM (7-1053)

or

Classification: Omaha

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

and police stations to accommodate the rapid growth of the city, she said.

Rodish, 69, served eight years on the West Des Moines Parks Board. She started the West Des Moines Girls Softball Association 25 years ago.

- Ted Ohmart, chairman of the city's parks board for seven years. Ohmart ran for the council in 1985 but lost to Davidson.

- Kenneth Westerback, a former chief financial officer for Equitable of Iowa who served as a West Des Moines city councilman for nine years.

7-1053 Sub A-587

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 5 1988	
FBI - OMAHA	b6 b7c

cwk

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1M

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 10/5/88

Edition: Daily

UNSUB:

Title JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;

KIDNAPING

OO: OM (7-1053)

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Teen-age amnesia victim in Oklahoma is not Gosch

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

The 6-year-old mystery of Johnny Gosch got new life Tuesday, but, as has happened many times before, the hope quickly faded.

A blond 18-year-old under psychiatric observation in Tulsa, Okla., isn't the boy who apparently was abducted two blocks from his home in September 1982 while preparing to deliver newspapers, authorities said.

Like previous leads through the years which placed Gosch in a subway train in Toronto or in a hospital bed in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., the Tulsa report was triggered by coverage of the case in the national media, in this case a story in People magazine.

The magazine published an account of Noreen Gosch's struggle to find her son and a computer-enhanced FBI drawing of how the youngster might look today. Gosch was 12 when he disappeared.

Julie Cartwright, a spokeswoman for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Wash-

*"This has been like a roller-coaster ride for us. We had hope, but in the back of our minds we knew it may not be."*

—Noreen Gosch

mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch

ton, D.C., said the center received a dozen calls when the magazine began appearing in the area.

"The callers mostly wanted to know more. That's an extraordinary amount of calls for such an old case," she said.

Tulsa World columnist JoAnn Gordon said she saw the People story and saw a resemblance to a youth arrested last week after a six-hour stand-off with police in a Tulsa convenience store. "It's a long shot, but I decided to call," she said.

Investigators said the youth had been hanging around the convenience

store and went into a restroom, then climbed into a false ceiling and refused to come out. The youth, who had a handgun, was taken to a local hospital after he was coaxed down with an offer of a cold drink and an aspirin. He was not charged.

Investigators said the youth appears to have amnesia. He said he was born in Omaha, that his name was Roy Leon Lane and that he was the son of a Garnet, Kan., couple. The information couldn't be verified, police said.

The report created some tense moments for Noreen Gosch.

Q - OM 7-1053  
1 - OM 80-592  
C/A [redacted]

7-1053 Sub A-589

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"We appreciate people's interest," she said. "This has been like a roller-coaster ride for us. We had hope, but in the back of our minds we knew it may not be."

Gosch would be 18 years old and had blond hair and blue eyes like the Tulsa teen-ager, but police quickly eliminated the youth because he didn't have a birthmark on the upper left part of his chest or teeth marks Gosch received on his tongue in a fall.

Police have no fingerprints of Gosch, only dental records and descriptions of body markings.

West Des Moines Police Lt. Lyle McKinney said the investigation continues, but few leads have surfaced in recent years.

"We can't turn our backs on anything," he said. "Something someday may turn up."

One of the most widespread police investigations in the state's history, the search for Gosch and newspaper carrier Eugene Martin, who dis-



peared two years later while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register, has turned up no leads. Martin last was seen folding papers on a south Des Moines street, seven miles from where Gosch had been.

Gosch had picked up his bundles of newspapers and talked with a man in a parked car and to other carriers. He then walked alone with his wagon and vanished a block away. The wagon was found with the bundles untouched.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Noreen Gosch thinks carrier cases are related

By The Associated Press

The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch said Thursday that she believes an incident involving another carrier this week is connected with the 1982 disappearance of her son.

"Until somebody proves to me that they're not, I'm convinced," said Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines. Her son Johnny, then 12, disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while preparing to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register in West Des Moines.

Jerry Miller, a Clive police detective, said he doubts the Gosch case had anything to do with the incident involving Mike Fackler, 10. The boy's father, Steve Fackler, said a heavy-set man wearing a jogging suit and driving a white car chased his son while the boy was delivering papers before dawn Tuesday in Clive, a Des Moines suburb.

The boy bolted to safety at a nearby house. A man matching the same general description, but driving a white van, chased a newspaper carrier in Indianola about six weeks ago, officials have said.

Gosch said there were reports of other newspaper carriers being chased shortly before her son and another Des Moines Register carrier, Eugene Martin, disappeared. There has been no sign of either Gosch or Martin, then 13, who disappeared in Des Moines in 1984.

Gosch said police should give more credence to the latest incident. "Do they think these criminals stop with one and quit their careers?" she asked. "The history speaks for itself."

Miller, the detective, said the incident involving Fackler does not appear to be similar to the Gosch case. But he said police are taking the incident seriously and have alerted nearby police departments.

Detective Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines Police Department, who has led the investigation of Johnny Gosch's disappearance, also said he doubted there was any connection between the latest incident and the two missing carriers. But McKinney said it was too early to draw any firm conclusions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M  
 THE DES MOINES REGISTER  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date: 11/4/88  
 Edition: Daily

UNSUB;  
 Title: JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM  
 KIDNAPING  
 OO: OM (7-1053)  
 Character:  
 or  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

NOREEN  
GOSCH

(1) - OM 7-1053  
 1 - OM 80-592  
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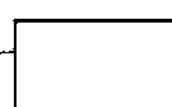
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In case you are  
 pursuing this [redacted] report  
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 Pls. advise me of details.

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# DCI suspects 2 abductions, attack linked

By FRANK SANTIAGO  
Register Staff Writer

Suspecting a possible link to two missing newspaper carriers, the Division of Criminal Investigation Monday entered the investigation of a weekend assault of an Indianola newspaper carrier.

In an unusual move, the agency entered what appears to be a routine local case because of "curious" similarities to the apparent abductions of carriers Johnny Gosch and Eugene Martin, said Eugene Meyer, the DCI's assistant director.

Gosch and Martin were delivering The Des Moines Register, as was the Indianola carrier, before they vanished without a trace in 1982 and 1984. The Indianola carrier was attacked early Saturday.

"There are obviously things here that we want to explore," Meyer said. He said the DCI's participation had been requested by Indianola authorities and two agents have been assigned.

- 2 - OM 7-1053 (C/A)
- 2 - OM 7-1145 (C/A)
- 1 - OM 80-592A

*Consider as  
suspect in  
work w/ DCI*

## Extensive Effort

Investigators have uncovered no information about what happened to Gosch or Martin, despite a joint effort of the FBI and state and local law agencies, an offer of help from former President Reagan, and a massive campaign that placed the youngsters' photos in post offices as far away as Guam. The two cases have not been linked.

Authorities have said they don't suspect the missing boys have been taken by an organized ring. Most investigators have speculated that a loner, someone living in the area, kidnapped Gosch and Martin and killed them.

In the Indianola incident, Meyer said, there are no leads, although several callers called police and some said they recognized a composite drawing of the suspected assailant.

About 5:15 a.m., an 11-year-old boy was on his route in north Indianola when he was approached by a man who threatened to stab him if the youngster didn't get in his car. Police said the carrier ripped out of his shirt, which the man had grabbed, and ran to a nearby home for help.

The assailant was white, about 6 feet 2 inches tall, 40 to 45 years old, was slightly stooped and had dark hair flecked with gray. The car he was driving was white with a dark vinyl top.

## Other Carriers Chased

In November, Register carrier Mike Fackler was chased in Clive by a man who was driving a white car. Fackler, who was also delivering papers, fled to a nearby home. Six weeks before that, a similar incident was reported in Indianola involving a man who drove a van.

Police have been unable to identify the men in those incidents or establish if they were the same person.

Like the recent Indianola carrier, Gosch and Martin were alone delivering newspapers before dawn. Gosch, 13, was within a few blocks of his West Des Moines home on Sept. 5, 1982, when he disappeared. Martin, who was within days of his 14th birthday, left a bundle of newspapers near the curb Aug. 14, 1984, before he vanished a short distance from his home on Des Moines' south side.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 21

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 7/16/89

Edition: Sunday

Title:

Character: Kidnaping  
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

The three incidents involved boys of similar ages and occurred during the summer and on weekends. Gosch and Martin were delivering The Des Moines Sunday Register.

Although miles apart, the suspected abductions and the assault were in the Des Moines area.

In the Gosch case, a witness told police that the boy last was seen talking to a man who was driving a car with Warren County license plates, the county in which Indianola is located. The car was parked where Gosch and other carriers had picked up their newspapers.

But the description of the car, two-tone blue, doesn't match the car seen in Indianola, and the man in the car was described as heavyset. Police, however, don't know if the mysterious man, who was asking directions, abducted Gosch.

John Miksch, director of circulation for The Des Moines Register, said the newspaper doesn't plan changes in its delivery operation because of the recent incident. He also said there has been no increase in carriers quitting.

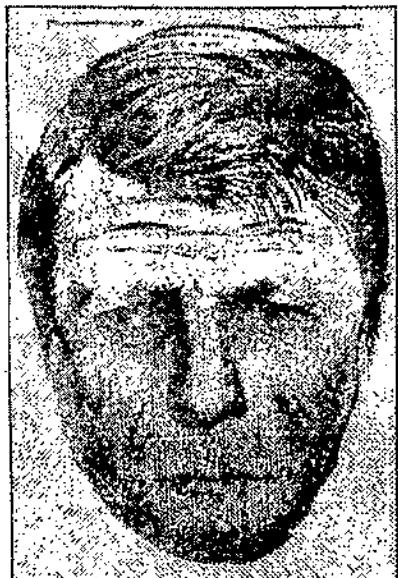
"Everybody in the whole organization is sensitized about this. We hope one of these times we'll catch these guys or guy. The police and everybody is taking this very seriously," he said.

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This is a police sketch of the man who attacked a boy in Indianola Saturday.

## Man chases, grabs carrier

By KEITH LEE  
Register Staff Writer

A man attacked a Des Moines Register carrier Saturday morning in Indianola, police said.

At 5:15 a.m., the newspaper carrier, who was not identified, noticed a car going the wrong direction on a one-way street and following him. The boy then was approached by a man who screamed obscenities and threats at him, and chased him, police said.

— then grabbed the carrier

The man then grabbed the carrier by his sweatshirt, but the boy managed to escape by wriggling out of his sweatshirt. The boy ran to a house, calling for help, and a man appeared at the front door. The assailant then fled the scene in his car, police said.

Indianola police released a composite sketch of the man. They described the man as a white male, 6 feet 2 inches tall, about 40 to 45 years of age, with salt-and-pepper colored hair. He walked with a slight stoop. He was driving a large white car, possibly a two-door with a red vinyl top.

The carrier was reported safe and unharmed.

In November, a man driving a white car chased Register carrier Mike Fackler in Clive while Fackler was delivering papers. The boy managed to flee safely to a nearby home. A similar incident happened in Indianola six weeks before that, but the man was driving a van.

In 1982, Johnny Gosch, then age 12, disappeared while delivering papers in West Des Moines. Almost two years later, Eugene Martin, then age 13, vanished from his route in Des Moines. Neither has been found.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 7B  
THE DES MOINES REGISTER  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Date: 7/16/89  
Edition: Sunday

Title:

Character: Kidnaping  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Omaha

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 Page 1M

THE DES MOINES REGISTER  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 Date: 9/1/89  
 Edition: Daily

Title:

UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;  
 KIDNAPING  
 OO: OM (7-1053)  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: Omaha

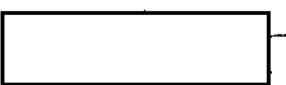
# 7 years after the nightmare began, Gosches find 'peace'

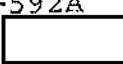
By FRANK SANTIAGO  
 Register Staff Writer



This photo of Johnny Gosch shows how he would look today as projected by the FBI's computer enhancement.

7-1053 Sub A-597

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 1 - OM 80-592A  
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Seven years after their son disappeared, John and Noreen Gosch have cleaned out his room.

Untouched since Sept. 5, 1982, when the youngster rolled his wagon down the street to deliver the morning newspaper and never was seen again, the small upstairs bedroom has been home to sad, silent memories.

This week, the couple tearfully decided seven years was enough.

"After a certain point there's no reason to keep the room like a shrine. It's not healthy for the people who live here," Noreen Gosch said.

Gone are the bed, the Star Wars pictures, the rockets and spaceships and the notebook divided into "English" and "Math" and "Science" by the 12-year-old seventh-grader.

#### In Storage

With the stuffed animals, the items have been placed in storage. The room will be an office for Noreen Gosch, who has become a businesswoman. It's a career she has begun, in part, to fill the void of having lost a son.

"I still wake up thinking this is all a dream," she said while curled up on a couch at her West Des Moines home.

Once angry and combative, Noreen Gosch has mellowed. There are no bitter words for the police she accused of botching the investigation of her son's disappearance. There are no more hostile fusillades for those who thought she carried the missing children fight too far.

Instead, the Gosches, who conducted a nationwide campaign to find their son, have accepted what Noreen Gosch called "a peace," an understanding there is nothing more that can be done.

"We have done everything possible. There are not a lot of things that we can do to locate him. We've forgotten how to relax for a long time. We didn't notice things like flowers, beauty, nature," she said.

They have made an accommodation, she said: They now have their lives, although their thoughts will always be of their son.

#### Leads Have Led Nowhere

Investigators have given the family no hope. The search for Johnny Gosch technically is active but there have been no leads. Johnny Gosch was alone during the early morning hours when he was last seen. His wagon and the bundles of Des Moines

Sunday Registers he was to deliver in the upper-middle-class neighborhood were found untouched.

The Gosch case may be linked to the Aug. 12, 1984, disappearance of Eugenie Martin, who also was delivering the Sunday Register, in a south Des Moines neighborhood, seven miles away. Investigators have uncovered almost no leads in either case and cannot make a connection.

"I think whoever who took him took him for profit," Noreen Gosch said. "The terrible pain is not knowing what happened. What did they do to him? What if he's still alive? There are a lot of 'what ifs.'"

The Gosch home is quiet. Noreen Gosch's two children from a previous marriage have left home. Johnny was the couple's only child.

"I found myself going to the movies a lot all by myself. There was such a void without Johnny. After a couple of months, one night in the theater while I was crying during a comedy, I decided this was stupid. I'm wasting my time," she said.

Noreen Gosch works full-time as an office manager for Ecolab, a West Des Moines company that sells cleaning products to institutions. She operates a small after-hours business selling women's knit clothing and

**GOSCH**

Please turn to Page 8M



Noreen Gosch, whose son, Johnny, has been missing since 1982, sits at a desk in what used to be the boy's bedroom.

Photo at right is Johnny at age 4. Gosch plans to turn the room into an office.

## Gosches find 'peace' after 7-year ordeal

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page 1M*

jewelry. John Gosch is employed by a farm chemical company and on weekends tends a 40-acre farm a short drive from home.

"I don't know how we did it emotionally but we are fortunate. We didn't seek professional counseling," she said about her marriage. "We've cared enough about each other to make it work."

"I don't know if I can mentally relate to a 20-year-old boy because the clock stopped at 12 years old in this house. The night before he was kidnapped, he started to go upstairs and he put his arms around me and said, 'Mom, I really love you.' That was the last we saw of him."

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2M

The Des Moines Register

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 2/7/90

Edition: Daily

Title: UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053

Submitting Office: Omaha

# Boy's disappearance in '82 haunts mother

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

With her son missing for more than seven years, Noreen Gosch said Tuesday she remains haunted by the fear of never knowing what happened to him.

"If Johnny is still alive, I want to know. If he's not, if his life has been taken, it would be a comfort to know," she said on the nationally syndicated Joan Rivers Show. "We could then step into what we call the grievance process. We are not permitted that. Yes, I would like a resolution."

Appearing with two other women to discuss coping with tragedy, Gosch said the case continues to baffle authorities.

The youngster, then 12, disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register near his West Des Moines home. Another Sunday Register carrier, Eugene Martin, 13, vanished Aug. 12, 1984, from his route in a south Des Moines neighborhood.

## No Leads

Investigators have uncovered no information to indicate what might have happened to the two boys or if the abductions were connected.

Gosch said in the television show that she had turned over to investigators a two-page letter she received on Valentine's Day in 1988; purported to be sent by her son.

"It had mistakes in typing and spelling. It said, 'I'll never be permitted to return home. They've cut my hair. They've dyed my hair. I look different. Please don't ever forget me.' It was signed, 'Love, your son Johnny Gosch.'

"We'd never received a piece of evidence like this ever. I fell apart

somewhere between the mailbox and the front door and practically drug myself into the house because it was such a shock," she said.

Gosch, in an interview after the broadcast, said it wasn't known if the letter was authentic. She said there were details in the letter that indicated the writer had some familiarity with the family. She said she didn't know how the writer could have gotten that information.

## No Choice

On the broadcast, Gosch explained how she has coped with the loss of her son. "In a word, I don't know," she said. "We don't have a choice. When something like this happens to you, you go on. You pick up and do what you possibly can."

She said family and friends raised \$400,000, much of it through candy bar sales, to find the boy.

"This has put a tremendous strain on everyone. My husband and I consider Johnny to be the true victim. Many times when something happens to you or in your family you tend to internalize this and say, 'Why does this happen to me, Lord?' You cannot do that in this kind of case. If you do that, you begin to lose your energy. I don't mean to say you don't feel bad. You feel horrible."

When she lectured on missing children a few years ago, Gosch said she was approached by a woman who said, "It has been three years. Why don't you stop looking for him? He's probably dead anyway."

"I stood there and for once in my life I didn't have anything to say. I gripped the podium and I thought, 'Oh, God, please help me. I can't even speak.'"

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# Missing boy's parents say detectives located suspect

By KEN FUSON

Register Staff Writer

The mother of missing West Des Moines paperboy John Gosch says private investigators have identified

a man they believe may be holding her son, but police say they have no suspect.

Noreen Gosch declined to say who the man is, where he lives or why private investigators hired by the family believe they have

JOHN GOSCH information about her son. But she said the man resembles an artist's composite drawing of a person seen in the area on the morning her son disappeared.

West Des Moines Police Chief Orval Cooney and Gerald Shanahan, director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, said Wednesday they have received no information from the boy's parents or from their private investigators about a possible suspect in the case.

As a result, Cooney and Shanahan said they couldn't say whether the information might be valuable to finding the boy or a suspect.

"If they have a suspect, they should be sharing it with us," Cooney said. "I don't mean to be taking away from the private detectives, but they just don't have the tools we do."

## "Positive Stroke"

Noreen Gosch called the information "a real positive stroke for our family." Her husband, John, said the

family remains "hopeful" the boy is still alive.

John David Gosch, 13, was last seen shortly after starting his Sunday morning newspaper route. Authorities have been hard-pressed to find any clues since the Sept. 5 disappearance.

In a statement released Wednesday afternoon, Noreen Gosch said: "A suspect has been identified and is currently under investigation by the private detectives working for the Gosch family. No further information can be released at this time due to the ongoing investigation."

She said a team of as many as five investigators headed by Dennis G. Whelan of Omaha has talked to the man. She declined to say what he told them. "They have been working on this for several weeks," she said.

## Private Detectives

The family hired the detectives after becoming dissatisfied with the work done by law enforcement authorities.

The missing boy's father said authorities won't be called in until private investigators have a chance to "fine-tune" their work. Asked why West Des Moines police and DCI agents haven't been notified about the man, he said: "We don't want them to louse it up, to be very honest with you."

His wife said releasing the information now will help the work being

# Gosches delay yule celebration

By KEN FUSON

Continued from Page One

done by private investigators, but she declined to say how.

Shanahan said authorities want to talk with the family and the private investigators, but he said the family hasn't been cooperative. "We may have the same information," he said. "We don't know."

He said information released by the family might hamper the prosecution of a suspect, if one ever is arrested and if he doesn't match previous descriptions. Chief Assistant Polk County Attorney Ronald Wheeler said he couldn't comment without more information.

## No Suspect

Cooney said police have not identified a suspect. "I wish them the best of luck in the world," he said, referring to the private investigators. "I don't care who does it; I just hope one of us gets it done and we get the boy back alive."

Cooney said Wednesday that the West Des Moines Police Department is offering separate \$1,000 rewards for information about each of two cars that were in the area the morning the boy was last seen.

One of the vehicles was described as a gray or silver car with a dark, wide and contrasting stripe on its side, which was seen at the intersection of Forty-second Street and Marquette Avenue in West Des Moines.

Police said the other car was described as a two-tone blue automobile, possibly a two-door, seen at the intersection of Forty-second Street and Ashworth Road. The driver apparently asked directions to Eighty-sixth Street.

Anyone with information about the

cars is asked to call 223-3211 or 281-5138.

## Reward Money

Cooney said at least \$33,000 in reward money has been pledged for information leading to the location of the boy. The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company is offering a \$5,000 reward for such information.

"It's fine," the elder John Gosch said of the reward offers, "but this comes after 3½ months. Why didn't they do something like this the first week?"

His wife said her family will not celebrate Christmas until the boy is found. "Until we have Johnny," she said, "we're not having Christmas."

She said the family is "more than optimistic" about the information released Wednesday. "This is a very positive stroke. This is more than we've had to date."

EXHIBIT #15-2  
CASE 8204613

# Gosches stalk suspect

By Mike Owen  
of the Times

DES MOINES — The father of missing 13-year-old Johnny Gosch said Wednesday the family's private investigators have a suspect in the case.

"We do have one and he is under very, very close observation and we feel he is very, very connected," John Gosch said. "Probably within the next 24 to 48 hours there should be some very, very good news possibly about the whereabouts of Johnny."

Gosch said the private detectives have questioned the man — whom he said looks "very close" to composite

drawings the Gosches have sent out — and that the man "did admit talking to Johnny."

But the newest development also showed signs of the rift that has developed between the Gosches, formerly of Eldridge, and law enforcement officials since the boy disappeared from near his West Des Moines home Sept. 5.

Gosch said law enforcement officials have not been brought into this part of the case yet. He said he believes the Iowa Division of Criminal

— GOSCHES

Please turn to Page 8.

Johnny Gosch

QC TIMES

PAGE 1 12/23

## Gosches' tactics frustrate police

Continued from Page 1

Investigation and the West Des Moines Police Department would "mess it up."

DCI Chief Gerald Shanahan said the Gosches should notify the DCI if they have information state agents don't.

"I'll be glad if it's true, really. We're not in a contest with her," Shanahan said, referring to the boy's mother, Noreen Gosch.

But Shanahan criticized the Gosches for going to the media with the latest development.

"If a crime was committed and we went to court, then all of the flak that's been put up by her would jeopardize the case," he said.

Shanahan said informa-

tion generated by the Gosches' private effort has not helped the investigation.

John Gosch said the man being watched by investigators is in Iowa, and said they believe others are involved. But the elder Gosch also said they no longer believe a cult was involved, as they earlier had speculated.

He said they "expect the man to make a move" that they hope will take investigators "right to Johnny."

Meanwhile, separate \$1,000 rewards are being offered for information leading to the identification of two cars whose drivers were seen talking to Johnny the morning he disappeared, West Des Moines police said Wednesday.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Inmate's story of Gosch is true, his lawyer asserts

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

A Nebraska inmate has provided details about the abduction of Johnny Gosch that only someone with first-hand knowledge could have had, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Inmate Paul Bonacci's account "did not match up 90 percent, not 95 percent, not 98 percent, but 100 percent," John DeCamp said.

"I'm convinced this kid is telling absolutely the truth.... He never varied on the time. He gave a description of Johnny's pants, names on his shirt, scars on the body."

DeCamp said he became suspicious of a Gosch connection when he read a transcript of a psychiatrist's interview with Bonacci in which an "incident" involving a newspaper carrier was mentioned. DeCamp said Bonacci didn't identify Gosch by his full name.

"I went to the library and checked on Johnny Gosch. I wrote to the Gosches and told them I don't know if there is any validity, but the dates coincide and he talks about someone from Iowa."

DeCamp said John Gosch, the boy's

father, met with Bonacci, "and started getting chills."

"I believe he believed him," DeCamp said.

"He seemed sincere," John Gosch said recently.

Noreen Gosch, the boy's mother, said Bonacci "knows incredible things."

Johnny Gosch, then 12, disappeared in West Des Moines on Sept. 5, 1982, while delivering the Des Moines Sunday Register.

"When things need investigating here, they will be investigated," said West Des Moines police Lt. Gerry Scott. He said there were no plans to interview Bonacci.

DeCamp said Bonacci knows a lot about the abduction of Gosch, and he said he'll try to prove it.

"We're going to call everybody's bluff. Either Bonacci and I go down in flames or somebody starts doing some serious investigating," said

GOSCH

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 (C/A [redacted]  
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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1A &amp; 7A

THE DES MOINES REGISTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 7/24/91

Edition Daily

UNSUB;

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM;

Title: KIDNAPING:

OO: OM

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Omaha

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FBI-OMAHA	

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## Lawyer sure inmate's story of Gosch is true

**GOSCH**

*Continued from Page One*

DeCamp, a former Nebraska state senator and lobbyist in Lincoln.

DeCamp and investigator Roy Stephens of the Missing Youth Foundation in Omaha said they plan to summon a Portland, Ore., clinical psychologist to test the 23-year-old prison inmate. Nebraska investigators contend the inmate is disturbed and unable to tell the truth.

Bonacci, who claims to have several personalities, flunked mental tests administered by a series of experts provided by authorities. He claims he aided in Gosch's abduction. He said it was done by a ring that included three others who handed the 12-year-old youngster to child pornographers.

### Milwaukee Slayings

In another development Tuesday, Scott said West Des Moines police are monitoring the arrest of a Milwaukee man for a series of grisly slayings.

Scott said there was no evidence that Gosch was a victim of 31-year-old Jeffrey Dahmer in whose fly-infested apartment were found several pieces of human bodies.

"But we'll be in close touch," he said.

The disclosure in Milwaukee has "panicked half the Midwest," Deputy Inspector Vincent Partipilo told the Milwaukee Journal. "Everyone with a missing family member is calling us."



Paul Bonacci  
"Knows incredible things"



Johnny Gosch  
Missing since 1982

Police said they believed most of the victims were black men.

### Sex Abuse Rumors

Bonacci, imprisoned in Nebraska for three convictions of abusing a minor, was one of the sources of rumors about child sex abuse, drugs and violence that swept Omaha following the collapse of the Franklin Community Credit Union there a year ago.

DeCamp became a figure in the Omaha scandal when, in January, 1990, he wrote a memo naming five prominent local citizens as the suspected individuals involved in the alleged child abuse.

It was the first disclosure of the names. A legislative candidate later mailed copies of the memo to 10,000 west Omaha homes, setting off a firestorm of rumors about the individuals. The charges later were

debunked by a grand jury investigation.

### Testing by Psychologist

DeCamp said he plans to have psychologist Stanley Abrams test Bonacci. DeCamp contends that Abrams, who is in private practice, is an authority on polygraph testing and multiple personalities.

"We're risking everything we have to examine him. We'll have the news media there and the police there. This will be all out in the open," DeCamp said.

He said no date has been set for the test but that \$5,000 would be raised to bring Abrams to Lincoln.

Whether the testing will be allowed by prison authorities wasn't clear, DeCamp said.

"We'd prefer to have it done under the best conditions. How or where we don't know at this time," he said.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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 Page 1A and 8A  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/15/85  
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Title: UNSUB;  
 JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
 or  
 Classification: 7-1053  
 Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Johnny Gosch alive, fugitive tells reporter

## Meier fails to turn himself in to FBI

By BLAIR KAMIN

Register Staff Writer

A Michigan man suspected of defrauding the family of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch failed to carry out a promise to surrender to FBI agents Wednesday and was still staying at a Canadian motel across the river from Detroit, Mich.

An FBI spokesman said U.S. law officers had no jurisdiction to arrest the man, Robert Herman Meier II, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., while he was in Canada. The spokesman said that the FBI had initiated steps that would allow Canadian authorities to take Meier into custody and return him from Windsor, Ontario, to the United States.

No arrest had been made as of early Wednesday night.

The FBI announced Tuesday that it had issued a warrant for Meier's arrest, charging him with defrauding John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines by promising to find their son, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while preparing to deliver the Des Moines Sunday Register. Meier was accused of obtaining \$11,000 from the Gosches after a secret meeting at the Kansas City, Mo., airport on July 14.

Meier told the Windsor Star newspaper this week that he would surrender to FBI agents in Detroit at noon Wednesday. But he changed his mind.

MEIER

Please turn to Page 8A

## Sought for swindle, man found in Canada

By FRANK SANTIAGO

Register Staff Writer

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and TRIBUNE Company

"I have very good reason to know that Johnny Gosch is alive."

That statement, part of a 45-minute interview with The Register, was made by 19-year-old Robert Herman Meier II of Saginaw, Mich., who is being sought by the FBI in connection with an alleged extortion plot involving abducted newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch of West Des Moines.

Meier was reached by telephone Wednesday morning at the Canadiana Motel in Windsor, Ontario, after a newspaper there informed The Register that Meier was in that Canadian city.

Meier is wanted for allegedly swindling the boy's parents, John and Noreen Gosch, out of \$11,000 that they sent to him for what they thought would lead to the return of their son, who was 12 years old when he disappeared from his newspaper route three years ago.

In the interview Wednesday, Meier told a fantastic tale, none of which can be confirmed. He claimed to know that Gosch was alive, hinting that he had seen Gosch two months ago in Mexico. At that time, he claimed, Gosch was being held in a house with other children and being kept "not unlike the way you would keep a puppy."

He claimed that a group of Mexicans and Americans was holding Gosch but denied information given to the FBI that the Hell's Angels motor-

cycle club was involved in the boy's disappearance.

He expressed fear that the reports of the Hell's Angels' involvement would endanger his own life. "I might as well take a gun to my head and blow my brains out," he said.

Meier said he was interviewed Sunday by the FBI in Saginaw, but wasn't arrested because agents had not obtained a warrant. He said they called back and said they wanted to meet again.

"That clued me," Meier said, adding that "they didn't move quick enough because it was nine hours after I was supposed to meet them that I crossed the border, and I crossed the border without any problems."

His story about Johnny Gosch's whereabouts was greeted with deep skepticism by the FBI. "He's never been in Mexico," growled one FBI agent in the district office in Omaha.

Noreen Gosch said she wasn't sure about Meier's story but that he had

INTERVIEW

Please turn to Page 8A

7-1053 Sub D-17

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# Complete transcript of interview with Meier about Gosch

## INTERVIEW

Continued from Page One

given "important" details that hadn't been publicized before. They included a scar Johnny had on an ankle from a motorcycle accident and details of a blue van that was believed to be parked in the neighborhood Sept. 5, 1982, when the boy disappeared.

But Meier said it was the Gosches who told him about the scar.

Meier was evasive about a positive identification of Gosch. He said he scouted the house where Gosch was being held but didn't get close enough to see the boy. He said, however, that he was told the boy was Gosch.

Meier is a slightly heavy, blond, blue-eyed man who appears to be modestly dressed, according to Noreen Gosch who, along with her husband, met with him at the Kansas City International Airport July 14 to discuss details of the alleged rescue plan. Meier has tattoos on his arms including one, Noreen Gosch said, that is labeled "Maltese Falcon."

The following is a complete transcript of The Register's interview with Meier:

Question: Rob?

Answer: Who's asking?

Q. I'm Frank Santiago, a reporter for The Des Moines Register.

A. What's the name again?

Q. Frank Santiago.

A. How did you find me?

Q. I understood that you talked to a newspaper there in Windsor.

A. How did you find me?

Q. We talked to some people there.

A. (After a long hesitation) ... I said I was going to turn myself in to the

***'I might as well take a gun to my head and blow my brains out.'***

FBI at the border. If you (expletive) this sensitive arrangement by notifying the local police...

Q. I'm not a policeman, Bob. I'm a reporter for The Des Moines Register.

A. I guaranteed them (the Windsor newspaper) the interview.

Q. It's already in the paper up there. I haven't seen it. I'm in Iowa. The story is already out.

A. With this address?

Q. No, no, no. Just the interview about you turning yourself in.

A. (Expletive) you guys work fast.

Q. I'm not interested in telling anybody where you are. I just want to know what got you interested in the Gosches in the first place. The family is from Des Moines here. Why are you interested in turning yourself in? The family said when you talked with them in Kansas City you were kind of revolted about these things happening to kids and that's why you wanted to help them out.

A. Well, look, it was like this. Originally, this thing was supposed to be

Q. OK.

A. When the money was received, the guy who was setting it up got (expletive) because it wasn't enough. He knew what he would have needed to pull it off, and it wasn't enough. He said he wasn't going to do it. I said if he wasn't going to do it, I was going to burn. So I blew it off and ran.

Q. Did you take the money or give it to somebody else?

A. At this point in time I don't want to comment about that.

Q. OK. That's fine. Bob, your information about the boy. Is it good information?

A. It is.

Q. What makes you say that? The FBI is very skeptical here in Iowa about your story. They say they don't see anything to it. What information do you have about the boy?

A. All right now, I'll tell you the plain truth. The FBI is not going to acknowledge one way or another if that information is good or bad. What I know is that if this information is leaked to the press the people will not only go underground but that the odds are about 99 percent they'll put a hit on me.

Q. So what basically can you tell me? Where is the boy? Is he in Mexico?

A. He is.

Q. How do you know that? Have you seen him?

A. I'd rather not say until I've talked with a lawyer.

Q. Where in Mexico is he?

A. The FBI knows.

Q. Are they telling us the truth, that it's Mexico City?

A. Probably not. The reason why I gave an interview is I don't want B.S. spread to the press. I want them to know.

Q. What do you want the people down here to know, including the family?

A. That it was too late. That it had gone too far. I had no control over the situation.



Johnny Gosch  
May be in Mexico

valid. I was a front man. I wanted the planner.

Q. What had gone too far? I don't follow you.

A. Well, either way I would have gotten the name, so I decided to play the game. I really don't know that I should be talking to you.

Q. Well, this is really a big case down here. There are two boys missing and I don't know if you are aware of that. There's a deep concern about what happened to these two boys. I would like to know what's coming down here. Why did they pick him out? What are they doing with him? And how did he get down there? And how did you come across the family? Where did you get this information about the scar on (Johnny's) ankle you told the family about?

A. Well, you realize that no matter what I say and what I do they are going to bring me to Des Moines and I'm not going to get a fair trial.

Q. What do you want to say, then?

A. You see the point is that information has come to me in the past few hours that is very important that I do no more talking to you about specifics.

Q. OK. What do you plan to do here? Turn yourself in at the border?

A. I can tell you exactly what will happen. I can help you out there. The agent I talked to is special agent Stan Walker. They're going to pick me up,

## *Suffice it to say I have reason to believe that he's alive.'*

take me to Bay City, Mich., to a federal marshal and hold me there. I should be there and then go on to Milan, the federal penitentiary, and then they'll try and work extradition and get me to Des Moines.

Q. This is the deal you worked out with them?

A. No. This is what they told me they're going to do.

Q. OK. Why are you turning yourself in?

A. Why?

Q. Yeah.

A. Because you cannot run from the FBI. It's unbearable.

Q. Bob. What happened to the boy? We'd like to know. Without putting anybody on the spot and endangering yourself. Tell us what you know. Where did you get the information about the scar and the van?

A. Gosches is where I got the information on the scar.

Q. They said they got it from you. A. I know nothing about that. That's (expletive).

Q. They told you that? A. That's right.

Q. Where did you get the information about the van?

A. From the guy who set the whole thing up.

Q. OK. You mean the guy who set the kidnapping up?

A. No. The guy who was going to set up the retrieval. Getting the kid back.

Q. Where is this guy from?

A. Houston.

Q. Houston. How did he find out about it?

A. Because he's involved in it. In the kidnapping.

Q. Who are these people? Why are they interested in boys?

A. Why do you work for a newspaper? Because it makes money, right? And it's not just boys they pick up.

Q. Anyway, this guy is involved in it and he lives in Houston. Did he live up here at one time?

A. I think so.

Q. You think he's telling you the truth or just leading you on?

A. I have no reason to believe he lied to me.

Q. Can you tell us that you've seen the boy? Please, that's important here.

A. Suffice it to say that I have very good reason to know that he's alive.

Q. Tell me why. This is very important here.

A. (Hesitation)

Q. Give me one bit of a clue, one bit of information that you really know.

A. You realize what I say will not be admissible in court as evidence. It will upset a jury ...

Q. No... where did you see this kid?

A. I went to Mexico almost two months ago. (Hesitation) Damn it, I really shouldn't talk.

Q. No, no. Tell me, this is important.

A. We ran a recon... to see the perimeter and the inside. (Hesitation)

Q. And what happened?

A. Suffice it to say I have reason to believe that he's alive.

Q. Recon of what?

A. A house.

Q. A house with children in it?

A. Yeah.

Q. Recon... in other words you went down and looked it over.

A. Yes.

Q. What did you see down there? Maybe this is another boy who looks like this boy. I mean, he's a pretty common, ordinary looking fellow for his age.

A. (Hesitation)

Q. How did you know it was him?

A. I'm trying to think of a way to say this.

Q. Did he tell you his name?

A. I didn't get that close.

Q. Did he tell you he was from Iowa? Did he tell you he was a newspaper boy?

A. Look, that kid couldn't have said much even if he wanted to. I seriously

## *'It's not unlike the way you would keep a puppy. A pet.'*

doubt he could have remembered much.

Q. Why?

A. You have any idea what they've gone through?

Q. I have no idea.

A. If people think they've got it bad, they're crazy. The emotional and psychological trauma is frightening.

Q. Bob, where in Mexico is this house? Mexico City?

A. It's a big town, all right.

Q. But how did you know it was this kid?

A. I was told.

Q. You were told he was Johnny Gosch?

A. That's correct.

Q. By the guy from Houston?

A. You're trying to put words in my mouth. You're trying to make me talk.

Q. Tell me about his house, it's important. Tell me about this kid. We want to know if this is (expletive) or if it's really good information. There is a feeling around here the police haven't done what they're supposed to do.

A. They can't.

Q. What did the kid look like?  
A. I really don't want to say until I have had time to consult an attorney. You can rest assured I have no intention of making a statement to the police in any way, shape or form about anything.

Q. Did you see this kid with your own eyes? And somebody told you he was Johnny Gosch?

A. That's very likely.

Q. Have you heard about Johnny Gosch before?

A. No.

Q. The family said you saw their appeal when they went to Washington asking for information about their son. A. I heard about it later.

Q. What are these kids doing in this house down there? Are they kept as slaves? Sexual exploitation? What's the problem there?

A. You might say that it's not unlike the way you would keep a puppy. A pet. You have a dog? They keep you company when you are alone, don't they?

Q. You mean they are kept in squalid conditions?

A. No, I didn't say that. You're taking it way out of context. You're not understanding what I'm saying.

Q. They are kept like pets rather than people?

A. Right. You don't torture your pet, do you?

Q. Then why are they kept? For what reason?

A. I don't pretend to understand the human brain, nor do I pretend to delve into that subject. I don't know why people do things. It's ludicrous you would ask me my opinion on this.

Q. Well, I thought maybe you would have some insight.

A. It's not a dirty place at all.

Q. Why are they there? What are they being used for?

A. I have no first-hand knowledge.

Q. Why aren't you telling the police about this?

A. Because I don't want to die.

Q. There would be retribution here?

A. Oh, yeah.



Noreen Gosch  
Gave Meier \$11,000

Q. The FBI says the Hell's Angels are involved in this thing.

A. They are not in any way, shape or form.

Q. Then who's involved? Is this an organized effort?

A. It's organized but not by a motorcycle club. The people that run it... there's a word for it. They're kind of like their own little mob. I know they are not tied in with the other family. If they are, it's a distant tie. It's a collaboration of people.

Q. Are they Mexican or American people?

A. Both. I never gave any type of details to the government that a motorcycle club was involved.

Q. Well, that's what's been put out.

A. I told them that. Well, that's not true and it's going to cause a lot of problems. I mean, I might as well take a gun to my head and blow my brains out. Because it's not going to matter any more. The Hell's Angels are not going to care. Either way.

Q. Bob, I don't want to harp on this thing, but it's important. What can you tell us that can convince us other than your work here that that boy down there was Johnny Gosch?

A. I never said the boy was Johnny Gosch.

Q. I thought you said you had good reason to believe he was.

A. I did, but I didn't say specifically that that's who he was.

Q. Why are you in Canada?

A. I like Canada. I like Canadian whisky and I like Canadian women. That's why I came here. So I could have some Canadian whisky and some Canadian women before I went to jail.

Q. Are you spending the money now?

A. Huh?

Q. Are you spending the money now?

A. I don't have the money. I don't have to spend money here.

Q. Why didn't the police or the FBI arrest you Sunday? I understand they talked to you in Saginaw but did not arrest you.

A. What was your name again?

Q. Frank Santiago.

A. Frank, it takes a grand jury in Michigan to issue a warrant for an arrest. They didn't have a warrant.

Q. So you took off when they came back the second time?

A. No I humored them. I told them what they wanted to hear. I said everything.

Q. You told them everything. That you met with the family. Didn't they come back later to arrest you?

A. Yeah. They called me. They left a message to call them. I called them

*'Look, that kid couldn't have said much even if he wanted to.'*

and they said they needed to meet with me and talk. That clued me.

Q. So that's when you took off.

A. You can say that. I'll tell you something though. They didn't move quick enough because it was nine hours after I was supposed to meet them that I crossed the border, and I crossed the border without any problems.

Q. Anything else you can tell us, Bob? Like I said, this is important. How did these people take this kid in Des Moines? Did they say?

A. You can use your imagination on that. It was very easy, I'm sure. Anyone intent on doing something will do it. The same way that if they are intent on breaking into your home, they'll break in. A lock is not going to stop them. It will just take more time.

Q. Why did they pick this boy and why did they pick him on a newspaper route?

A. Ha. You're asking me why people do things.

Q. Yeah, but why? It's sounds kind of dangerous. Aren't there enough kids sitting around bus depots to snatch that are running away from home than to pick a kid from a good home in a quiet residential area?

A. He had breeding, right?

Q. What?

A. He had breeding.

Q. That's what they were looking for?

A. You tell me.

Q. How do we know that you're not just creating this whole thing about Mexico and the money and the other things?

A. You don't.

Q. You're sincere?

A. Would you talk to me if I wasn't? It takes all kinds of people to know this

**'I told them [FBI] what they wanted to hear. I said everything.'**

world. Some of these people aren't exactly wrapped right.

Q. Bob, are you 19 years old?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever been to Iowa?

A. Nope.

Q. What time are you turning yourself in?

A. As soon as the arrangements can be made to have an attorney present, I would say five hours at the border. The FBI agent did what he had to do just like what you put in the paper has to be accurate. At no point in time did I consider running. Could you tell me what was in the FBI's release?

Q. According to the FBI, Noreen Gosch told the FBI that you told them Johnny Gosch had been kidnapped by Hell's Angels motorcycle club members and was being held in Mexico City by a man named Enrico Gonzales. Gonzales was said to have bought the youth for \$5,000.

A. I would say they have brought in the Hell's Angels to make it more credible or to cause me more problems. I'm not certain why they have done that. However, I will not turn myself in unless there is an immediate retraction. I mean immediate, right now.

Q. Of the Hell's Angels?

A. That's correct.

Q. You're going to have to talk to the FBI about that. It went into not only the newspaper but went out all over the media. It was a news release.

A. Is there any way you could get ahold of a nationwide broadcasting company like CBS?

Q. That would not do it. But I will tell you you can get hold of the U.S. attorney here because he's the one who issued the statement.

A. Well, I'm going to call the FBI.

Q. The U.S. attorney is the guy who issued the statement.

A. Get them on the horn if you can.

Q. I got your number up there. You're in a motel and I'll tell them to call you and you talk with them.

A. You tell them to call me immediately.

Q. How can they contact you? The guy I talked to on the desk there didn't know your name.

A. You better let me have the number for the U.S. attorney.

(The telephone number was given to him.)

Q. Anything else you want to add?

A. No.

## Mexico rescue attempt failed, Meier told Gosches

### MEIER

*Continued from Page One*

apparently after being advised to obtain legal advice first.

Meier spoke with FBI agents after arriving in Windsor, according to Robert Keane, an FBI agent in Des Moines. Keane said agents in Michigan "were trying to negotiate his turning himself over." Keane said he did not know who initiated those negotiations.

FBI agents initially located Meier Sunday in Saginaw, where, according to agent David Oxler of Des Moines, he admitted contacting the Gosches by telephone and meeting with them in Missouri in July. Meier also admitted receiving money to be used for locating their son, Oxler said.

Keane said agents interviewed Meier in Saginaw. Asked why Meier was permitted to leave after questioning, Keane said FBI agents needed a warrant before they could arrest him.

Monday, the day after being questioned by the FBI, Meier checked in at the Canadiana Motel in Windsor, according to desk clerk Persa Samanc. She said Meier registered under his own name and was driving a motorcycle. Wednesday evening, she said, Meier told her he was going out for dinner and a haircut. His motorcycle

remained in front of his room, she said.

Noreen Gosch said Tuesday that Meier, also known as Samuel Forbes Dakota, first called her after the family's nationwide offer to pay a \$400,000 ransom for their son. She arranged the July 14 meeting in Kansas City. During that meeting, a man identifying himself as Dakota told the Gosches that their son had been kidnapped by Hell's Angels motorcycle club members and was being held in Mexico City, Mexico. A Mexico City man named Enrico Gonzales was said to have bought the youth from the motorcyclists for \$5,000.

The Gosches later wired Dakota four \$2,500 cashier's checks and a \$1,000 money order. Noreen Gosch told FBI agents that Dakota called her again July 24, saying that a rescue attempt in Mexico had failed and that three rescuers had been killed in a shoot-out. An FBI investigation found, however, that no shoot-out matching the one described to the Gosches occurred in Mexico City.

Dakota also told the Gosches that Gonzales had fled to Dearborn, Mich., where another rescue attempt would be made. The Gosches were to travel to Cleveland, Ohio, July 23 to get their son. The couple alerted the FBI, and agents were sent to the meeting site there but no exchange occurred.

FILED

AUG 22 1985

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

CLERK, U. S. DISTRICT COURT,  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

[redacted]

Defendant.

Criminal No. [redacted]

I N D I C T M E N T  
(f. 18, U.S.C. §§1341 and  
1343)

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT 1

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b7c

1. From on or about the 14th day of July, 1985 and continuing thereafter up to and including the 15th day of August, 1985, [redacted] devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and for obtaining money and property from [redacted] and Help Find Johnny Gosch, Inc. by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, well knowing the pretenses, representations, and promises would be and were false when made. The scheme and artifice to defraud, so devised and intended to be devised by the defendant was in substance that he had information concerning: a) the disappearance of Johnny Gosch on or about September 5, 1982; b) the person or persons who allegedly abducted Johnny Gosch; c) the purpose of the alleged abduction; d) the current whereabouts of Johnny Gosch; and, e) that he could and would return Johnny Gosch home for a price.

2. On or about the 14th day of July, 1985 in the Southern District of Iowa, [redacted] for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud,

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b7c

7-1053 Sub D - 29

[ ] per ha  
[ ] PAW

and attempting to do so did transmit and cause to be transmitted in interstate commerce by means of a wire communication, between Houston, Texas and Des Moines, Iowa certain signs, signals and sounds, that is a telephone conversation.

This is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

COUNT 2

1. Paragraph one of Count 1 of this indictment is hereby realleged and incorporated by this reference.

2. On or about the 14th day of July, 1985 in the Southern District of Iowa, [REDACTED] for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud, and attempting to do so did transmit and cause to be transmitted in interstate commerce by means of a wire communication, between Houston, Texas and Des Moines, Iowa certain signs, signals and sounds, that is a Western Union Money Order.

b6  
b7C

This is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

COUNT 3

1. Paragraph one of Count 1 of this indictment is hereby realleged and incorporated by this reference.

2. On or about the 21st day of July, 1985 in the

Southern District of Iowa [redacted] for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud, and attempting to do so did transmit and cause to be transmitted in interstate commerce by means of a wire communication, between Houston, Texas and Des Moines, Iowa certain signs, signals and sounds, that is a telephone conversation.

This is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

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THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

COUNT 4

1. Paragraph one of Count 1 of this indictment is hereby realleged and incorporated by this reference.

2. On or about the 24th day of July, 1985 in the Southern District of Iowa [redacted] for the purpose of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud, and attempting to do so did transmit and cause to be transmitted in interstate commerce by means of a wire communication, between Michigan and Des Moines, Iowa certain signs, signals and sounds, that is a telephone conversation.

This is a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

COUNT 5

1. Paragraph one of Count 1 of this indictment is hereby realleged and incorporated by this reference.

2. On or about the 25th day of July, 1985 in the  
Southern District of Iowa, [REDACTED] for the purpose  
of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud, and  
attempting to do so did transmit and cause to be transmitted in  
interstate commerce by means of a wire communication, between  
Michigan and Des Moines, Iowa certain signs, signals and sounds,  
that is a Western Union Money Order.

b6  
b7c

This is a violation of Title 18, United States Code,  
Section 1343.

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

COUNT 6

1. Paragraph one of Count 1 of this indictment is  
hereby realleged and incorporated by this reference.

2. On or about the 8th day of August, 1985 in the  
Southern District of Iowa, [REDACTED] for the purpose  
of executing the aforesaid scheme and artifice to defraud, and  
attempting to do so did knowingly cause to be delivered by mail  
according to the direction thereon, a letter addressed to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

This is a violation of Title 18, United States Code,  
Section 1341.

A TRUE BILL.

[REDACTED]  
FOREMAN

RICHARD C. TURNER  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

A TRUE COPY 8-22-85  
ATTEST:  
JAMES R. ROSENBAUM  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
BY DEPUTY CLERK

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 8M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

Date: 8/23/85

Edition: Morning

Title: UNSUB:

JOHN DAVID GOSCH - VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING

or

Classification: 7-1053-Sub D-

Submitting Office: OMAHA

Indexing:

# Grand jury indicts Meier in defrauding of Gosches

By ANNE CAROTHERS-KAY

Register Staff Writer

A federal grand jury in Des Moines has indicted Robert Herman Meier II, 19, on six counts of fraud against John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines. The indictment was made public Thursday.

Meier of Saginaw, Mich., is being held in Buffalo, N.Y., after turning himself in to FBI agents there. Joe Beck, assistant U.S. Attorney

**ROBERT HERMAN MEIER II**

in Des Moines, said a preliminary hearing is scheduled in Buffalo on Aug. 26, although Meier is expected to be tried in Des Moines.



If convicted, Meier faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and \$1,000 fine on each count.

Meier is accused of defrauding the Gosches by saying he knew the whereabouts of their son, missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch, and offering to return the boy to them for a price.

The Gosches said they paid Meier \$11,000 after meeting him in Kansas City, Mo.

Beck said Meier was charged as a result of alleged conversations or transactions with the Gosches, which included telephone conversations on July 14, July 21 and July 24, two money orders and a letter to the Gosches on or about Aug. 8.

7-1053-Sub D-52

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3M

The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

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# Gosch believes son is dead, blames FBI

The mother of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch said Wednesday she now believes her son has been killed by his captors because the FBI publicly released information about a man who claimed to know his whereabouts.



"In my heart, I feel that the FBI has been responsible for his death," Noreen Gosch said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I didn't feel that way before Aug. 13, the day they did the press release."

"As far as I'm concerned, I think the FBI has killed Johnny Gosch with their negligence."

**ROBERT H. MEIER** In a later interview with The Des Moines Register, however, Gosch appeared to back away from her statements, indicating that she thought her son might still be alive. "They could very well be responsible for what happens to him," she said of the FBI.

FBI agents in Des Moines and at the regional headquarters in Omaha, Neb., said they would not comment on her allegations.

Gosch and her husband, John, were angered when the FBI issued a news release earlier this month saying that federal agents were seeking Robert H. Meier II, 19, of Saginaw,

Mich., in connection with an alleged attempt to defraud the Gosches of \$11,000. Meier contacted the Gosches in July claiming he knew where their son was and offering to arrange his return for a fee.

Meier has since been charged with six counts of wire fraud.

"The FBI doesn't ordinarily put out press releases," Noreen Gosch said. "I definitely feel their actions have killed our son." She said she believes the news release about Meier and the national attention it received may have caused her son's abductors to flee or to kill him.

Meanwhile Wednesday, a federal magistrate in Buffalo, N.Y., ruled that Meier will remain in custody while waiting to be taken to Iowa later this week to face the fraud charges. He was arrested Aug. 15 in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Magistrate Edmund F. Maxwell ruled that the value of the property and cash that Meier's relatives put up to secure his release while awaiting trial does not amount to the needed \$50,000. Maxwell directed federal marshals to take Meier to Iowa no later than Tuesday.

Noreen Gosch said she was relieved by Maxwell's decision. "Our greatest concern was not necessarily that he would skip the country, but what if the Hell's Angels started to look for him," she said, a reference to Meier's claim that he had guarded kidnapped children while a member of the Hell's Angels motorcycle club.

7-1053-Sub D-55  
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FBI/DOJ

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# Meier pleads innocent of defrauding Gosches

By NICK LAMBERTO

Register Staff Writer

Robert Herman Meier, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., who is accused of bilking the parents of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch out of \$11,000, pleaded innocent to six charges of fraud Tuesday in federal court in Des Moines.

At his arraignment before U.S. Magistrate Celeste F. Bremer, Meier answered "yup" twice, first when asked if he was indicted under his true name and then when he agreed to waive the reading of the six counts of fraud.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Beck then asked Meier if he pleaded not guilty to each of the counts and Meier answered "yeah" six times. Asked for his street address, Meier said, "I don't remember."

Bremer set Meier's bail and detention hearing for 1:30 p.m. Thursday, which is the anniversary of the Gosch boy's disappearance. Meier is being held without bond until then. His trial has been set for Nov. 11.

Prosecutor Beck told the court



ROBERT HERMAN MEIER

there would be a "risk of flight and a danger to the community" if Meier were released. Beck also said he rejected the probation officer's report on Meier.

Meier surrendered to the FBI on Aug. 15 and had been held at Buffalo, N.Y., under \$50,000 bond until he was brought to Des Moines Friday. He is accused of defrauding John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines by accepting \$11,000 from them after promising to rescue their son in mid-July.

Johnny Gosch, then 12, disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, as he was getting ready to deliver papers on his Des Moines Sunday Register route.

"It's very apropos that the next hearing is on Sept. 5, the day our boy lost his freedom," Noreen Gosch said outside the courtroom Tuesday.

"I would like to know how he [Meier] got the information about John and his kidnapping," she added.

"I'm sure Meier talked to somebody involved, maybe while he was a bartender in Michigan. He knows something. He told us the Hell's Angels are involved in kidnapping kids.... If he denies it, he's a liar," added John Gosch.

"Now we'll just see how good the system is in this rip-off of parents of missing kids; the system — the FBI and DCI — is no good in finding kids," he said.

Beck said he has seen "no evidence of a link with the Hell's Angels."

Federal officers said earlier they have been unable to validate claims that Meier made about Johnny Gosch living in slavery in Mexico.

Meier was represented by a court-appointed lawyer, Mark Bennett of Des Moines.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4M  
The Des Moines Register  
Des Moines, Iowa

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Submitting Office: OMAHA

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7-1053 Sub D-61

Dr. Dr.

TAC  
FBI/DOJ

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# Judge denies bail for accused swindler Meier

By The Associated Press

A federal magistrate on Thursday denied bail for Robert Meier II, a Saginaw, Mich., man accused of swindling the parents of missing West Des Moines newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch.

Following an hour-long hearing, U.S. Magistrate Celeste Bremer ruled that Meier, of Saginaw, Mich., should continue to be held without bond.

Meier is scheduled to be tried Nov. 11 on six counts of wire fraud. He is accused of taking \$11,000 from John and Noreen Gosch of West Des Moines, after promising to find their missing son. Johnny Gosch was 12 years old when he disappeared three years ago Thursday after going out on his Des Moines Sunday Register newspaper route.

In ruling on the bond question, Bremer said Meier had no ties to Iowa and there were no assurances he would show up for future court appearances if he were freed.

She also said Meier has no job and little money and cited the fact that he was carrying a handgun when FBI agents first questioned him in early August. The magistrate said Meier's "lack of strong family ties" was another factor in her decision.

Meier has been held without bond since being transferred to Des Moines from Buffalo, N.Y., where FBI agents arrested him last month as he crossed the Niagara Falls bridge from Canada.

Federal authorities have been skeptical of Meier's claim that Johnny Gosch has been held near Mexico City. Investigators think Meier contrived the story to bilk money from the youngster's parents. During Thursday's hearing, John and Noreen Gosch sat in the back of the courtroom and held hands.

Through his questioning of Meier's mother, Donna Perrigo of Saginaw, defense attorney Mark Bennett tried to show that Meier was a good risk to be freed on bail.

During her testimony, Perrigo said her son did not have any drug or drinking problems and had no criminal record. She also said she had no problems supervising her son, that he could live with her in Saginaw if he were freed and she would make sure he returned to Des Moines for court appearances.

Perrigo, who has her own insurance agency in Saginaw, and Meier's father are divorced. She said Robert has lived with her in Saginaw and Myrtle Beach, S.C., and he also spent time with his father in Houston, Texas.

Perrigo said she was unaware of any violent acts committed by her son except when he supposedly got into a fight while living with his father.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 5M

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Des Moines, Iowa

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The Des Moines Register  
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VICTIM

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## He should be out on bail

Robert Herman Meier II, who is accused of bilking the parents of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch out of \$11,000, has been convicted of no crime. Yet, by the time of his Nov. 7 trial on charges of wire and mail fraud, Meier will have spent better than nine weeks in Polk County Jail with no chance at bail. Why?

Because a new bail law Congress passed last year permits "preventive detention" of dangerous or unreliable defendants awaiting trial on federal crimes.

U.S. Magistrate Celeste Bremer ruled on Sept. 6 that Meier should be held without bail because there is reason to doubt that he would show up for trial and to believe he might harm witnesses. Bremer's decision was upheld by Harold Vietor, chief judge of the Southern District of Iowa.

Admittedly, Meier is no Boy Scout. A high-school dropout, he once was diagnosed as "undersocialized and aggressive"; he has moved around the country and has not had steady work. He is accused of a shameful crime, of having made threats against the Gosches and of having a loaded handgun in his possession.

On the other hand, Meier, 19, has no prior criminal record. He voluntarily called the FBI when he learned that agents wanted to talk to him. He was released after an initial interview, so his trip to

Canada was not a flight from prosecution. Moreover, when told that an arrest warrant had been issued, Meier again called the FBI and returned to this country to surrender.

Congress intended that bail be denied to a very narrow class of defendants: those who endanger the safety of the community or who cannot be reasonably expected to appear for trial. Meier does not fit either definition.

The court had several alternatives to jailing Meier, including releasing him to the custody of his mother, putting him under police supervision, setting a large bond or a combination of these.

Pretrial release is not simply a nicety; it is critical to a defendant who faces the prospect of being led into a courtroom in handcuffs attended by armed guards instead of coming and going freely and appearing trustworthy.

Pretrial freedom gives the defendant a chance to show evidence of improvement, by getting a job and counseling, thus increasing the likelihood of probation if he is convicted.

The American legal system is founded on the principles of the presumption of innocence and the sanctity of individual liberty. The new federal bail statute is a contradiction of those principles, especially if all defendants are held to the standards applied to Meier.

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7-1053-85  
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Page 1  
 The Des Moines Register  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
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 VICTIM

Character: KIDNAPING  
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# Meier draws prison term in Gosch case

By ANNE CAROTHERS-KAY.

*Register Staff Writer*  
 Robert Herman Meier was sentenced Thursday to three years in a federal prison for defrauding the parents of missing newspaper carrier Johnny Gosch of \$11,000.

U.S. District Judge Harold Vietor also ordered Meier, 19, of Saginaw, Mich., to repay the money he extorted — \$203 to John and Noreen Gosch of 1004 Forty-fifth St. in West Des Moines and \$11,075 to the "Help Find Johnny Gosch Fund." Vietor also sentenced Meier to five years probation to begin after his prison term.

However, the judge said he would consider reducing Meier's sentence if Meier divulged whatever he may know about the whereabouts of Johnny Gosch.

Meier's lawyer, Mark Bennett, said he plans to discuss the judge's suggestion with Meier today. He said Meier has four months in which to include his statement about Gosch with a motion to reduce his prison sentence.

Meier was indicted by a federal grand jury in August on six charges of wire fraud. The indictment charged that through telephone calls and a meeting in Kansas City, Mo., Meier told the Gosches that he knew the whereabouts of their missing son.

Meier told them that Johnny Gosch was being held in Mexico, and he said he could rescue the boy for \$10,000, the indictment says. An additional \$1,000 was spent later for expenses. But Meier took the money and went to a Tennessee dude ranch. He later arranged for a friend to write to the Gosches, telling them that Meier had died in the rescue attempt.

Meier pleaded guilty to two of the six charges Oct. 21 in a plea agreement with the government. Each charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, and assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Beck recommended that Meier receive consecutive sentences totaling 10 years in prison.

But Vietor, citing the fact that Meier was only 19 and the fraud charges are Meier's first offense, sentenced him to three years on one charge and suspended a prison sentence on the second charge.

The judge added that he would normally grant probation in a routine wire fraud case but said the fact that Meier had preyed on the Gosches, who were grieving for their missing son, compelled him to issue a harsher sentence.

Vietor also said that Meier's apology at the sentencing "rang hollow."

Beck said in court that the government still could call Meier to testify before a grand jury about Johnny Gosch.



Robert Herman Meier  
 Given three years in federal prison

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 Jm [Signature]

FBI/DOJ  
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# Questions linger about Wallace

By John Walblay  
of the SWTR

A year after suspected serial killer George Kent Wallace was charged in the abduction and stabbing of Ross Alan Ferguson, investigators are still waiting to learn more from the convicted killer.

Ferguson's escape from Wallace, after being stabbed six times, began an investigation that reached into Oklahoma where the murders of William Eric Domer, 15, of Fort Smith, and Mark Anthony McLaughlin, 14, of Van Buren remained unsolved.

Investigators in Iowa and North Carolina also became interested in the Wallace case.

Since then, Wallace, 50, has been sentenced in the LeFlore County District Court to die by lethal injection for Domer's 1987 murder, and the November 1990 murder of McLaughlin. The execution is on hold until a mandatory review by the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals.

Wallace, a former Fort Smith truck driver who has lived and traveled in several states, has told authorities that he plans to discuss his alleged involvement in other murder cases.

Sebastian County Sheriff Gary Grimes has said he has corresponded with Wallace, mostly through the mail, and that Wallace has indicated several times that he will discuss the pending cases at a time nearer to his execution.

Wallace has been questioned in the stabbing death of Alonzo Cade, 12, of Fort Smith, whose body was found Dec. 20 in a gas well drilling pond on Fort Chaffee.

Ferguson was stabbed six times and dragged to a pond in the Washburn Community, east of Greenwood. The bodies of Domer and McLaughlin were found in a pond near Pocola, both had been shot.

West Des Moines, Iowa, police became interested in the Wallace case because of the September 1982 disappearance of Johnny Gosch, 12, a newspaper carrier who has never been found, according to West Des Moines police Lt. Gary Scott.

Scott, who is handling the Gosch case, said he also is waiting for any word from Wallace that might clear up the Gosch case.

He said there was a report that Wallace was seen in the West Des Moines area at the time of Gosch's disappearance.

"A businessman and his wife said the (Wallace) had been in and out of their business at that time," Scott said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.) Page 1-A  
Southwest Times Record  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

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Scott said he has notified the LeFlore County District Attorney to let him know if and when Wallace planned to discuss the pending cases.

"We have nothing solid, but nothing we could write off either," Scott said referring to any evidence that might link Wallace to the Gosch case.

North Carolina authorities traveled to LeFlore County in April to interview Wallace about two murders there, but came up short on information from Wallace.

Maj. A.G. Gentry of the Forsyth County, N.C., Sheriff's Department spoke to Wallace to see whether Wallace would confess to the 1976 murder of Jeffrey Foster in and Tommy Reed in 1982.

Gentry had hoped to extradite Wallace to North Carolina.

LeFlore County District Attorney Mike Sullivan has said the two North Carolina murders share similarities with the murders of Dorner and McLaughlin.

Wallace was questioned during the investigation of both boys' murders in Forsyth County, but detectives never obtained enough evidence to charge Wallace, according to Gentry.

Foster, 14, was found in a wooded area in August, 1976 and a medical examiner's report indicated he had died from a knife wound to the back.

Reed, 18, disappeared in 1982 and his remains were found in 1983, also in a wooded area. He died from a blow to the head, according to medical reports.



George Kent Wallace leaving the LeFlore County Courthouse in April after learning his July 2 execution date, which has yet to be carried out.



George Kent Wallace

# 'OUR CHILD IS MISSING!'

Worried parents can take some comfort from the ongoing crusade of a Florida family

By Rod Townley

[*"Adam," a TV-movie about the abduction of Adam Walsh, is scheduled to be shown on NBC on Monday, Oct. 10, at 9 P.M. (ET). See the listings section for time and channel.]*

The huge department store sign looms as we speed past the mall, but John Walsh does not look at it. "I can't stand to go by it. I went there so many times with Adam and Revé."

On July 27, 1981, 6-year-old Adam Walsh was looking at video games in the store's toy department in South Florida's Hollywood Mall while his mother Revé Walsh was looking at lamps a couple of aisles away. When she returned a few minutes later, Adam had disappeared.

An only child, a bright boy with a talent for drawing, a love of sports and a

42

predisposition for unusual hats (he was wearing a white cap that day), Adam generally did what his parents told him to do. It was soon evident that something was terribly wrong.

John Walsh, a boundlessly energetic business executive in his mid-30s, was not the sort to sit at home and wait for the police to call with news. He and Revé practically moved into the Hollywood, Fla., police station for more than a week, fielding calls and plotting strategy with Lt. Richard Hynds, who headed the investigation.

"Detectives worked 40 hours without going home," recalls Walsh. "It was incredible. But I realized after looking at the [police]

wire that no one [in other jurisdictions] was reading it." So Walsh had his own eight-person staff call police chiefs and sheriffs all over Florida. "Over 70 percent of them didn't know Adam was missing. They'd never seen the wire."

With such poor communications between counties, what could one expect between states? The FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) keeps a huge data bank on missing persons and property, but the Walshes discovered that the NCIC was dependent on the information supplied by local police departments, many of which did not use the system, re-



Adam, at about age 2½, with his parents John and Revé.

TV GUIDE  
Our Child  
Is Missing

SUB B  
145-4034-3

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sulting in sometimes inadequate information on missing children. The FBI itself never officially took on the Walsh case at all, although it provided some technical assistance. It said there had to be a ransom note or evidence of transportation across state lines before it could step in.

The Walshes kept struggling to get the word out about Adam in every way they could, giving interviews and issuing televised appeals. Two weeks after the abduction, *Good Morning America* invited the Walshes on the show, thus giving them a national forum.

At six o'clock on the morning of the show, Walsh received a phone call in his New York City hotel room. The head of an unidentified boy had been found in a canal near Vero Beach, 123 miles from Hollywood. Although fearing the worst, the Walshes decided to do the TV program anyway, if only for the sake of other missing children whose pictures would be shown during the segment.

A while later, alone in the hotel room, Walsh received the phone call he had been dreading. The severed head was indeed Adam's. Walsh says he literally tore the room apart in a rage of grief, and the hotel security guard found him gasping for breath on the floor.

Revé was found and told about Adam. "She was like a wounded animal," her husband recalls. "She was destroyed."

This is where the story  
TV GUIDE OCTOBER 8, 1983

usually ends in cases like this. Bottomless despair. But because of the publicity that had been generated, the Walshes found some 22,000 letters waiting for them, many from other distraught parents seeking advice. Clearly the problem went far beyond Adam's case. They learned that some 1.8 million children are reported missing each year; about 100,000 are stolen by non-custodial parents; and some 50,000 others disappear; many of them—like Adam—are abducted by strangers. The fatality rate in the latter group is very high.

John and Révé Walsh decided to do what they could to change this. They set up the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center in Fort Lauderdale, instituting a pilot computer project to compile detailed physical information about missing children. When it became evident that the need exceeded the center's resources, Walsh pleaded with the state legislature in Tallahassee to take over and expand the computer project. In 1983, Florida became the first state to set up a Missing Children Information Clearinghouse. This agency gathers and disseminates information and sends out monthly bulletins to state law-enforcement agencies.

Important as the Florida legislation is, it does not solve the problem of highly mobile murderers and child molesters who roam from state to state. That FBI computer at NCIC, thought

Walsh, just had to be opened up more effectively to missing kids. Others thought so, too, notably Sen. Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.) and Rep. Paul Simon (D-Ill.), who months previously had introduced bills to do just that. For the next year the Walshes threw their considerable energies into the fight to get these bills passed.

The proposed legislation did not require that the FBI go out hunting for children, but merely that parents be given direct access to the NCIC computer and to obtain from it detailed information about missing kids and unidentified dead. Nevertheless, Justice Department opposition was often vehement.

But the bill's proponents were less upset by the opposition than by the indifference they encountered. Révé Walsh looks back with some bitterness: "All those buildings in Washington, all that classical architecture, it's just a facade."

Her outlook brightened a bit when the Missing Children Act finally passed and was signed into law by President Reagan, who declared, "It's a great day for Adam."

And so it was. But equally great days were to follow some months later. A voluntary child-fingerprinting program was launched in Florida this year, thanks in large part to the Adam Walsh Center. Prospects look good for the funding of a Federal Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (FVCAP), which would use —

continued

the FBI computer in Quantico, Va., to profile multiple-pattern murderers and help track them down.

But one of Adam's really great days this year came in early February, when a top-level memo was sent to all FBI field offices to clarify (one might say, to humanize) FBI policy on kidnapping. Among other points: a ransom demand is no longer required before the FBI can step in; and interstate travel (another requirement) "can be presumed after 24 hours." Further, a high priority shall be assigned to these cases.

A few scant weeks after this memo was sent out, a 4-year-old boy was abducted in Vero Beach, Fla., not far from where Adam Walsh's remains were found. Immediately, dozens of FBI agents swooped onto the scene; a week later the kidnaper was caught and the boy was discovered tied up in the trunk of a car—alive.

Although there was no connection with Adam's case, John Walsh says that afterward a ranking FBI man in the Personal Crimes Unit told him, "Your efforts changed the Bureau's

mind" about dealing with these cases and "You'll always know that because of your efforts we saved a little boy."

That's high praise from the normally taciturn FBI, and under different circumstances, Walsh might have beamed with pleasure. Instead, he shot back, "That doesn't give me any solace, because I'll always remember that you didn't enter Adam's case."

And suddenly you remember that, rhetoric aside, there are no "great days" for Adam. All his days ended 26 months ago. 

### Have You Seen These Missing Children?

Here are nine of the estimated 150,000 children in the U.S. who have run away or been abducted by strangers or by non-custodial parents. If you've seen them, please contact your local police department or call Child Find at 800-431-5005.



**John David Gosch**, now 13, was last seen around 6 A.M. on Sept. 5, 1982. He is believed to have disappeared while starting his paper route in West Des Moines, Iowa. He has a large birthmark on his upper-left chest.



**Ilene Rebecca Scott**, 8, lived with her family in a mobile-home park in Los Angeles. On Dec. 20, 1980, Ilene went out to play. Her mother couldn't find her a half hour later and has heard nothing about her since.



**Valerie Lynn Stockie**, 15, vanished from Edgefield, S.C., on March 15, 1982. She was then 5-feet-5. Her eyes are brown (but may look hazel close up) and her hair is light-to-dark blonde. This photo was taken in 1981.



Lisa Michelle Stock, 5, was to be picked up in Bexar County, Texas, on Nov. 19, 1980 by her divorced father Dale for an extended Thanksgiving visit. The two were last seen in Oklahoma City, Okla., one year ago.



Gabriel Lawrence Minarcin (middle) and Jon Debkowski (right), both from Pittsburgh, were last seen on Jan. 14, 1982, en route from Jon's home to Gabriel's at 5:30 P.M. Gabriel turned 12 last week; Jon, 13 next month, has a scar under his left eye.



Jennifer Marieliz, 8, disappeared on Nov. 15, 1982 from Tampa, Fla. She was last seen one block from home on her way back from school and was wearing an orange-pink knee-length dress.



Etan Patz was 6 years old when he vanished en route to his school-bus stop, two blocks from home, in New York City on May 25, 1979. Next May 25 marks the third annual National Missing Children's Day.



Ryan Burton was 3 when she was removed from her crib in Breckenridge, Texas, on the night of Sept. 6, 1981. Ryan has since been seen in Texas and Oklahoma.

These children appeared on the role call at  
the conclusion of the television movie

# ADAM



Broadcast on NBC, October 10, 1983 9-11 p.m. N.Y.T.

If you think you have any information on the whereabouts of any of these children, or any other missing children, please call CHILD FIND, toll free (800) 431-5005 - in New York (914) 255-1848. All calls will be kept confidential.

Special thanks to NBC and Alan Landsburg Productions for making publication of this poster possible.





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## Project Will Trace Missing Persons, Track Killers

A project designed to lay the groundwork for a nationwide system for tracing missing or abducted children and adults, as well as for tracking and apprehending "serial murderers" and to explore the link between abuse and delinquency has been announced by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

The Sam Houston State University Criminal Justice Center, in Huntsville, Texas, will oversee several planning sessions around the country.

The planning process will deal with child pornography, child prostitution and juvenile delinquency resulting from sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Alfred S. Regnery, OJJDP Administrator, said that this knowledge will be integrated into the establishment of a Violent Criminal Apprehension Pro-

gram (VI-CAP). It is envisioned that VI-CAP will use the \$2,000 data input terminals of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to help track missing persons—both children and adults—and to allow the Behavioral Science Unit of the FBI to analyze crimes apparently committed by serial offenders, whether rapists, murderers or child molesters.

### 5,000 Murdered

In announcing the cooperative agreement with Sam Houston State University, Mr. Regnery pointed out that law enforcement authorities estimate that as many as 5,000 people a year—half of them juveniles—are murdered without apparent motive or by sadomasochists, pedophiles, pimps who live off children, or child abusers.

"There currently is no national center for analysis and collection or correlation

of patterns of violent crime," he said. "The participants in the first planning session believe that a national violent crime analysis center at the Behavioral Science Unit of the FBI could use crime data from all of the Nation's law enforcement agencies to allow quicker identification and apprehension of society's most feared violent criminals by local law enforcement officials."

"When police have an unsolved or apparently motiveless killing in one State, they could send a summary of the evidence to be analyzed and programmed into a computer. Most criminal justice experts think we may find that there are many more serial murders, rapes and molestations than we can now discern."

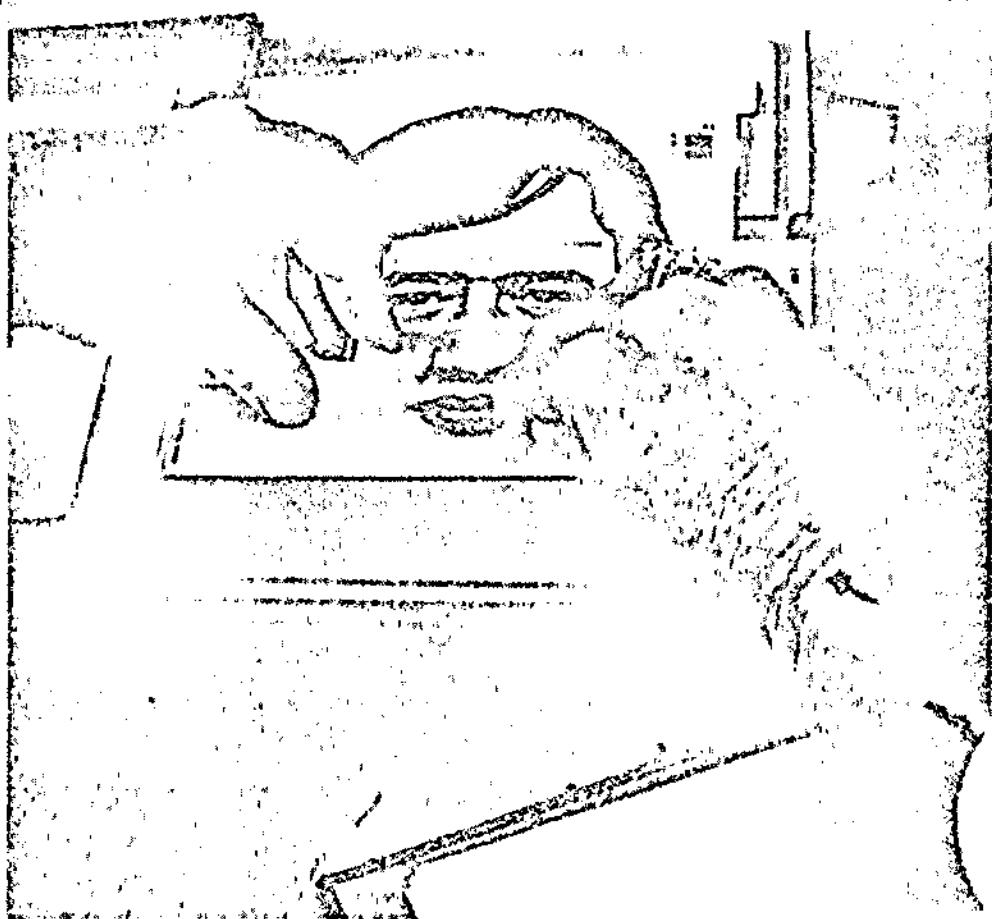
### Personality Profiles

Mr. Regnery also said, "The FBI's Behavioral Science Unit already has the capability of profiling the personality of violent criminals based on evidence from the crime scene and surviving victims. The Unit currently provides these profiles to local law enforcement officials upon request." Mr. Regnery believes that coupling this capability with the ability to track these criminals will give law enforcement officials powerful new tools for dealing with a serious national problem.

James K. Stewart, Director of the National Institute of Justice, which is also supporting this planning process, said that in known psychopathic serial killings alone, 30 men have killed from six to 60 people over the last 10 years.

"In the overwhelming majority of cases," Mr. Stewart said, "these killers have not been arrested as a result of multi-jurisdiction tracking of their killing spree. Rather, they have been arrested for a recent local killing or killings. Arresting authorities all too often were unaware that the greater number of the killers' victims were strewn across state lines."

Further information may be obtained by contacting Robert O. Heck, Special Emphasis Division, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531, (202) 724-5924.



The project aims to identify and apprehend serial murderers.

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Date: 10 / 12 / 83  
Edition: DAILY NEWS

Title: "Adam" sets off family reunions

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BQ 145B-4034  
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Indexing:

# "Adam" sets off family reunions

By CLARENCE FANTO  
TV Editor

**A**T LEAST TWO family reunions have been triggered by Monday night's widely seen NBC-TV movie, "Adam." And at least 4,000 callers swamped the switchboard at Child Find Inc., a national clearing house for missing children located in New Paltz, N.Y. Other hot lines and agencies report a similar outpouring of public interest.

"We're looking forward to as many as eight more family reunions as a result of this TV show," said Alice Byrne, a board member of Child Find. "We're still getting as many as 150 calls an hour from people who may have spotted the 55 missing children whose pictures were shown at the end of the NBC movie."

NBC officials conceded they were caught somewhat off guard by the intensity of public reaction to the program. "I'm overwhelmed," said executive producer Joan Barnett. "I bought the movie when I was vice president for films at NBC because I thought it would do well with the

audience, but I never expected this outpouring of public reaction."

"Adam," co-starring Daniel J. Travanti and JoBeth Williams, was based on the disappearance of Adam Walsh, 6, in Hollywood, Fla., on July 27, 1981. He was found dead two weeks later.

The movie depicted the efforts of Adam's parents, John and Reve Walsh, to locate their son, and the bureaucratic hassles they encountered dealing with federal agencies, including the FBI. Later, the Walshes campaigned for changes in the laws, and Congress passed the Missing Persons Act, giving parents access to a national computer system to help find missing youngsters.

"The film was very accurate; it related what happened, without hype, almost in documentary form," said John Walsh in an interview with the Daily News yesterday. "I was surprised and gratified by the public response."

A deluge of phone calls from viewers began immediately after the conclusion of "Adam," when Child Find's toll-free number was flashed on the screen. At least 150,000 children disappear each year, and Child Find estimates that 50,000 of these cases are never solved.

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Noreen Gosch, who said she received phone calls from her missing son Johnny (right): "I told him that we loved him."

## Missing Iowa boy: 'Mom, get me out'

By Janet Cawley  
Chicago Tribune

**DES MOINES**—For the last 18 months, since her young son disappeared, the phone has been a lifeline and a nemesis for Noreen Gosch. It rings constantly in her comfortable suburban home, bringing queries and information from the curious, the helpful, the concerned and, occasionally, the malicious.

Early Wednesday, she says, it brought the voice of her kidnaped son.

"He said, 'Mom?'"

"I said, 'Who is this?' I thought maybe it was a crank. I could tell it was long distance. He said, 'This is Johnny.' I said, 'Are you all right?' He said, 'No.' His voice was slurred, as if he had been drugged, and he was crying. I asked, 'Where are you?', and someone slammed down the phone."

In all, she says, there were three calls, each less than 40 seconds long and just minutes apart, from her 14-year-old son, who disappeared Sept. 5, 1982, while starting out on his Sunday delivery route for the Des Moines Register newspaper.

"HE WAS PLEADING for help," she said. "He said, 'Just get me out of here, Mom.'

"They've got me here, just get me out...."

"That's how I knew it was Johnny. His voice went through

ranges of emotion, and when you hear someone through their lives, hear their voices change at different levels, then you recognize it again. His voice has deepened a little since he was kidnaped, but I know it was Johnny. I have no doubt."

Gosch said she phoned police after the first of the three calls. They later told her they could not trace the calls, she said, but could confirm they were long distance.

Said Lt. Lyle McKinney of the West Des Moines Police Department, "We're still working on it. You have to be determined."

FOR MRS. GOSCH, a 40-year-old secretary, and her husband, John, also 40, a salesman for a chemical company, the calls were the latest in an anguishing series of events they cling to as proof their son is alive.

According to Mrs. Gosch, there have been 15 sightings of Johnny in the Southwest United States—she declines to be more specific—between March and September last year. She says private investigators hired by the family have verified the sightings. In most cases, Johnny appeared to be in the custody of two men "who had him under their thumbs."

According to FBI Special Agent Robert Keane in Des Moines, there have been a number of "sightings" in the Southwest. "We have done investigations, but we never have been able to say

Continued on page 2, col. 1

John David Gosch

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# Missing

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positively it was him. We would show people his picture, and they would say, "Yes, that's the person they saw, but by then he wasn't there anymore."

In addition, Mrs. Gosch says, Johnny called home once before, last Aug. 3. His 19-year-old brother and 20-year-old sister, both home from college, picked up phone extensions simultaneously, and "they heard him keep asking for Mom. He said he needed help. Then someone slammed down the phone. The whole call didn't last longer than 45 seconds."

JUST A MONTH later, Mrs. Gosch said she and a private detective received identical calls a few minutes apart. "It was a man. He said: 'I have Johnny. He's alive. You can look for him all you want, but I'm never going to give him back.'"

The Gosches believe the person who abducted Johnny was a middle-age man with dark eyes, black hair and a mustache. The man was seen talking to the boy as he began his delivery route. A friend of Johnny's said the youngster appeared to be giving directions to the man, who was driving a blue car.

"Why would he let Johnny call?" Mrs. Gosch asked. "I have a distinct feeling the calls were made for a

reason. Maybe to let us know he's alive, maybe to throw us off the track. I'm also told a lot of times kidnapers do this for a kind of sadistic pleasure.

"Earlier that evening, Johnny's picture was shown on national television on a program about the Senate hearings on missing children. Maybe the kidnaper or Johnny saw his picture and that's what led to the call," she said.

The Gosches are determined their son will, somehow, be returned to them. "I feel confident we'll find him, recover him," Mrs. Gosch said. Outside the brick family home in the affluent suburb of West Des Moines, a porch light burns constantly for Johnny ("We've been through five bulbs"), and a phone is never more than inches away. The Gosches employ an answering service to take calls when they're not home, and Mrs. Gosch always carries a pager with her.

Life without Johnny, she says, has been "horrible." For the last two years, the family has not been able to celebrate Christmas. "The older kids just said they didn't want to. And in a way, it was just easier for us than to try to go through the whole rigamarole and torture.

"You know in this whole situation, my husband and I had jobs, friends, a purpose to keep us busy. But Johnny was ripped away from those things. It's 10 times worse for him. He's the victim."

Chicago

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# **Man accused of selling porn tapes of kids**

By DANIEL HAYS

A 29-year-old Flushing man, who authorities said is a member of a homosexual group that advocates sex between men and boys, was arrested yesterday and charged with peddling pornographic videotapes of children.

Picked up on a federal warrant of violating postal laws was Mitchell Rakoff, 29, of 79th Ave., Flushing. <sup>NY</sup> Customs and postal agents said that from his home they seized videotapes, photographs, magazines and equipment for transferring 8-millimeter films onto videotape.

Rakoff was released in his own recognizance by Brooklyn U.S. Magistrate John Caden, after pleading innocent to the charges. If convicted he faces up to 10 years for selling child pornography through the mail.

According to Postal Inspector Daniel Mihalko, authorities began investigating Rakoff last summer when customs seized a shipment of pornography destined for Rakoff that he was attempting to import from Europe through Kennedy Airport.

Using an undercover name, Mihalko began writing to Rakoff and made arrangements for the shipment of "KP" kiddie porn videotapes for \$20 each.

In a complaint filed by the inspector, he said that Rakoff indicated he had been a member of NAMBLA (North American Man Boy Love Association) under an anonymous name.

Rakoff's attorney, August Agoti, said his client had advised him "he canceled the check he gave NAMBLA and did not join. He went to one meeting."

Mihalko stated in his complaint that one of the tapes contained acts of bestiality and that four tapes in all were obtained.

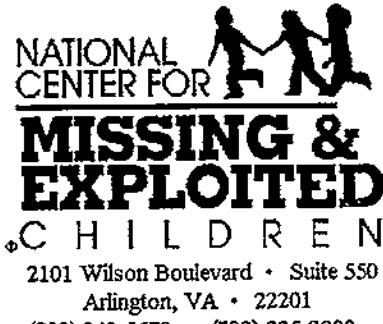
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# JOHN DAVID GOSCH

Non-family abduction

86-IA-1



JOHN DAVID GOSCH



Age progression to 22 Yr

Age progression by NCMEC (9/92)

Missing: 09/05/82      Age Now: 24 Yr  
Missing From: WEST DES MOINES, IA

Birth: 11/12/69      Age Disap.: 12 Yr  
Sex: M      Race: WHITE  
Height: 5'7"      Weight: 140 lbs  
Hair: L BROWN      Eyes: BLUE

Id Info: Child has facial freckles, a gap between his front teeth, a birthmark on his left cheek and a horseshoe-shaped scar on his tongue. Child's photo is shown age progressed to 22 yrs.

Circum: Child was last seen delivering newspapers.

NIC# M089641270

ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT  
The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
1-800-843-5678

OR

WEST DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT (IOWA)  
MISSING PERSONS UNIT 1-515-223-3211 OR YOUR  
LOCAL FBI OFFICE

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